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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reaffirms 'Exclusive Right' To Join Talks

NC0611000689 Paris AFP in English 2140 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 5 (AFP)—The PLO has reaffirmed its exclusive right to form a delegation to any Israeli-Palestinian talks, insisting that such a dialogue be followed by an international peace conference, the AL-AHRAM daily reported.

In an article to appear Monday, the newspaper said the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization had indicated its position to the United States following a meeting here over the weekend and was awaiting a U.S. response.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has proposed a five-point formula for the start of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, a format approved conditionally by Israel's inner cabinet on Sunday.

The cabinet backed the Baker ideas provided they are accompanied by explicit U.S. guarantees that the PLO will not participate in the encounters and that the talks will focus exclusively on plans to arrange elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

AL-AHRAM summarized the executive committee statement in seven points.

—The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue must be a preliminary step toward an international conference on the Middle East, held under the auspices of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO.
—The PLO has the "total" right to constitute a Palestinian delegation.
—The United States must commit itself to the idea that the dialogue and elections in the territories are but the first stages in an overall peace settlement for the region.
—Israel must commit itself to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, guaranteeing security for all states in the region, as well as the political rights of the Palestinian people and the principle of exchanging captured Arab land for peace.
—A plan proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, calling for elections but ruling out a Palestinian state, must not be considered the basis for the dialogue.
—The international conference must take place immediately after elections in the occupied territories.
—The PLO must be a participant at all stages of a Middle East settlement.

AL-AHRAM quoted Muhammad Subayh, secretary general of the Palestinian parliament, as saying a U.S. response to the statement would disclose whether or not Washington saw the PLO as a legitimate peace partner.

Abu-Sharif Interviewed on Peace Plans, Dialogue

JN0411111089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 2 Nov 89 p 26

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's personal adviser, by Rashid Khashshanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashshanah] It has been reiterated that the U.S. Administration has asked the PLO to slow the momentum of the intifadah when it enters its 3d year. What is the PLO's response to this proposal?

[Abu-Sharif] If Washington is concerned about stopping the intifadah it must stop the occupation first. And the decision to escalate the intifadah is a 100 percent Palestinian decision.

[Khashshanah] Does the escalation call for using arms, for example?

[Abu-Sharif] The Palestinian leadership gave instructions not to use firearms. The decision still stands although Shamir knows that we possess arms and that we purchased the arms from the Israeli Army.

[Khashshanah] Reports have been disseminated on preparations for announcing an American-Soviet initiative for a settlement in the Middle East. What is the content of this initiative?

[Abu-Sharif] The Soviets play an important role in the search for a political settlement in the region. They adopt a clear stand on the American idea to convene an international conference and stand firmly on the PLO's side. However, the information I have shows that the cooperation between the Soviets and the Americans has not reached the level you mentioned in your question. And now, there is no joint initiative between the Soviets and Americans.

[Khashshanah] Then, can we say that the situation has reached an impasse?

[Abu-Sharif] The present situation is very delicate as the political movement has reached its peak with the approach of the 3d year of the intifadah and the Palestinian side has presented all the facilities it possesses to arrange the political process in the Middle East and solve the Palestinian problem.

However, all this met with Israeli intransigence which continuously obstructs any efforts made by any party. Shamir rejected the European as well as the American roles. The Israeli Government even rejected President Mubarak's 10 points which are based on the Israeli prime minister's plan. Thus, Shamir rejected his own plan causing shock and resentment in the entire world.

But, what amazes us is that the U.S. Administration still supports the Shamir plan, which obstructs every peaceful settlement and seeks to abort the peaceful plan presented by President 'Arafat at the United Nations in Geneva on 13 December. And Israel did not stop there; it resorted to

other methods to abort and stop the Palestinian-American dialogue by presenting a draft resolution to the U.S. Congress. This draft resolution, of course, failed. We now read what is being published in THE NEW YORK TIMES citing its correspondent in Tel Aviv on the so-called "Israeli charters." These charters claim that the PLO's leadership carried out 100 terrorist operations inside the occupied territory and that 80 percent of these operations were targeted against Palestinians who collaborated with Israel. However, an American intelligence source asserted that his country has no confidence in the soundness of these charters. We now have information saying that the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress will present another draft resolution to stop the Palestinian-American dialogue.

[Khashshanah] How do you explain the coincidence between the Middle East political process and the exposure of scandals surrounding the nuclear coordination between Israel and South Africa?

[Abu-Sharif] By these acts, which conflict with international norms and charters, Israel seeks to convince the world that any Middle East political settlement will pose danger to its people. Here we would like to ask the American taxpayer if he knows, or accepts to see his money used in financing the production of nuclear missiles in cooperation with racist South Africa at a time when Americans are struggling to end the nuclear and arms race. I think it is high time for Washington to take a large step such as the one taken by Eisenhower in 1956 when he stopped the tripartite aggression on Egypt. We say this because we do not believe that Washington's decision is taken in Tel Aviv nor do we believe that Bush speaks in the name of Shamir. We sincerely believe in the good will of Bush and Baker in their efforts to find a political solution in the Middle East because we are convinced by the principles they declared when they asked Shamir to end the occupation. They said this publicly in front of Shamir. Thus, we are not used to weeping over remains, but we tell President Bush that his credibility is put to the test in regard to the seriousness of his defense of human rights, and we do not imagine that he considers the Palestinian child as not being part of this battle.

[Khashshanah] But observers see discrepancies in the Palestinian stance toward Baker's plan.

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO's stand is clear. It is based on the Palestinian people's will and their adherence to the principles of peace, which can be achieved through political negotiations at an international conference to be attended by all concerned parties on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. This is what the PLO wants without conditions. We are ready to deal with any practical proposal like that of elections which we want to be free and political, as well as a first step leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state free to determine its destiny.

[Khashshanah] Baker's plan, Shamir's proposal, and the 10-point plan all ignore the international conference. What is your opinion?

[Abu-Sharif] President Bush said clearly and explicitly that elections are one of a series of steps defining the road to a final solution. But what is the final solution? We have not yet known that or whether it exists.

[Khashshanah] Do you not think that the U.S. Administration's assumed goodwill clashes with the veto on Palestine's membership in international organizations?

[Abu-Sharif] My talk about goodwill is not absolute and our battle with the United States is not an easy one because the political battle is more difficult that the military one. Actually, we are not facing Israel but Washington, which, despite its declared principles, remains silent over the occupation authorities' violations. It is also using the veto against us and is supporting Shamir's government politically, financially, and militarily. We entertain no delusions that Washington will impose sanctions on Israel as it did on China.

[Khashshanah] Does the development of the European policy toward the Middle East conflict ordain a role for these countries in the future?

[Abu-Sharif] The Europeans have made huge strides within a year in terms of quantity and quality, far exceeding all that Europe has done over more than a quarter of a century of dealing with the issue. In this regard, we can refer to French President Mitterrand's speech, which was a serious and responsible one fully expressing the European view. We highly value this policy and believe that it is high time to support his steps in order to end the systematic terrorist practices against our defenseless people.

PLO's Ahmad Interviewed on Baker Plan, Israel

JN0411120989 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Nov 89 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee and secretary of the Arab Liberation Front, by Huda Hammudah in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] How far has the Palestinian peace initiative gone a year after its launching, especially in light of the recent Israeli and U.S. plans? And how do you judge the nature of Palestinian dealings with the U.S. Administration proposals?

[Ahmad] The Palestinian peace initiative, which represented the common Palestinian and Arab ground after its adoption by the Arab summit in Casablanca, has enjoyed worldwide support. It was supposed to continue until it achieved its goal—namely, a political settlement of the Palestine question through the convening of an international conference on the basis of international legitimacy. We knew, however, that the U.S. Administration and Israel would try to abort the initiative and its

impact on world public opinion by proposing liquidatory schemes. The first attempt was made through the conditions that the U.S. Administration set for initiating a dialogue with the PLO, not feeling content with the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] during its last session in Algiers. This administration began to send messages through Swedish envoy Sten Andersson. The PLO ended up meeting U.S. conditions.

The success of this first attempt encouraged Washington to drag the PLO into further details, which helped overshadow the political plan proposed by the last PNC session. Hence came Shamir's election plan, which he proposed in May. The United Sttes began to promote this plan, but when the plan failed to win international acceptance, attention was focused on the so-called 10 Egyptian points, which Egypt presented to the Israeli Government in the form of queries. The United States began to talk about the need to accept these points, and the talk, of course, was directed to the PLO although the points are basically addressed to the Israeli Government and the PLO has no link to them whatsoever. It was designed to make the Palestinian peace initiative remain out of focus and have all attention paid only to U.S. actions. When Israel rejected the 10 points, the United States, through its secretary of state, James Baker, put forward a 5-point plan. The plan was not directed to the PLO and it is based on Shamir's plan. It calls for a U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli meeting to discuss the subject of talks with Palestinians acceptable to Israel on the issue of elections in the occupied territories.

All these suspicious moves were the backdrop to the recent PLO Central Council meeting in Baghdad. The conferees at this meeting discussed all these facts, and the Palestinian leadership prepared a working paper through which it explained its vision of the stage that preceded the convening of the council and its recommendations to counter these moves; it defined its views on the nature of the next Palestinian political moves. It stressed its rejection of the U.S. understanding of Egypt's 10 points and of Baker's 5—the liquidatory plan aimed at containing the glorious intifadah of our people, paralyzing our political movement, and undermining our political achievements. These various proposals are designed to distract attention away from our peace initiative, which our PNC had approved. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] News agencies have said that Israel proposed to the U.S. Administration amendments to Baker's plan as a condition for accepting it. It was also said that the Palestinian delegation that recently visited Cairo asked for some clarifications concerning Baker's five points. How true are these reports?

[Ahmad] We have recently learned that the Israelis gave their conditional approval to Baker's five points. As far as we are concerned, there is no change in the position adopted by the PLO Central Council. We learned that Arens proposed three amendments to Baker's plan: The first relates to what he called "the land of Judaea and Samaria"; Baker rejected this proposal but we do not know further details. The second amendment reflects Israel's continued insistence that the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli meeting aim for naming the members of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. The third amendment stipulates that the meeting discuss only the subject of elections in the occupied territories, and that any reference to follow-up negotiations on the final arrangements for the comprehensive settlement be deleted from the plan. Discussions between Israel and Washington on these amendments are still going on.

[Hammudah] Since the PLO Central Council had set the condition that the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue be a prelude to the convening of the international conference, what is the argument of those who rejected the dialogue?

[Ahmad] As I said at the beginning, gradual dragging toward further minor details harms the Palestinian peace initiative and makes it lose its content. During the last PNC meetings, it was agreed to negotiate with the Israeli enemy within the international conference; direct negotiations in any form outside the international conference were rejected. We now have taken a further step toward direct negotiations, on condition that these negotiations be a prelude to the international conference and be conducted under international supervision and without preconditions [sentence as published]. Going into too much detail about these conditions, I say, endangers the Palestinian peace initiative.

The second risk is the talk about an open dialogue with an Israeli delegation without preconditions. I think there can be no dialogue without the declaration of certain principles on the basis of which the dialogue can be conducted. Otherwise, we will get involved in a Byzantine argument that might continue for 1 year, 3 years, or even more; we will continue to discuss everything except the things that must be discussed.

If we enter into a dialogue with the Israelis without the declaration of certain principles to guarantee Israel's withdrawal and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, especially in light of the current Arab and international situations, the dialogue will go on indefinitely. I believe that this will be a waste of time, a required factor.

For all these reasons, there were objections to this resolution by the PLO Central Council. But we all accepted the interpretation given; namely, the "interceptor plan." We accepted this interpretation of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue without preconditions, and we rejected this dialogue in all its other meanings. [passage omitted]

Official on Peace Initiatives, Israeli Position

JN0311213289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Interview with Iliya Khuri, bishop of the Arab Episcopal Anglican community in Jordan and PLO Executive Committee member, by moderator Muhammad Amin in Amman, carried within the weekly "Topical Affairs" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Amin] May I pose my last question to His Excellency Bishop Iliya? It is a political question as his excellency is a member of the PLO Executive Committee. May I ask you about the latest developments, and what is the PLO's recent and real position on the five points of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the 10 points, and Shamir's initiative on elections in the occupied territories? What is the PLO's latest position? Has it rejected them, has it accepted them, or is it awaiting a specific development?

[Khuri] We know that the PLO is seeking peace in every way and through all contacts. In fact, the PLO has made its call for peace into a strategy. When Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was asked about the Palestinian national Charter, for which the Jews or Israel reproach us, he said: "Caduque," which means obsolete. It is a new strategy, which was adopted after lengthy deliberations among the various Palestinian factions, the PLO, and the Palestine National Council. Now we are facing a position. The PLO has launched a peace initiative to the world. It is the proposed international conference to be attended by the permanent Security Council member states as well as all the parties involved in the Israeli-Arab conclict, including the PLO on an equal footing with the others. This call has also been adopted by Jordan and the Arab countries.

In fact, the obstacle is the United States and the U.S. Administration, which has not yet been able to pressure Israel into accepting the Palestinian peace initiative. It is well known that Israel has lied to the world by calling for peace. The Palestinians launched their latest peace initiative and are serious in reaching a peaceful settlement with Israel. They have accepted what they have been rejecting for the past 40 years. Their aim is to achieve peace. Shamir then launched his initiative for elections in the West Bank and Gaza. We know that, by this, Shamir wants to establish an alternative Palestinian leadership.

[Amin] Your Excellency the Bishop, may I interrupt you? Shamir May be trying to abort the Palestinian peace initiative?

[Khuri] What is important to him is to try to establish an alternative Palestinian leadership, although he knows that no Palestinian inside the occupied territories will agree to act as an alternative to the PLO. Every Palestinian inside the occupied territories is a member of the PLO. This is well known to the Israelis, the Americans, and the world. Second, as you said, this was an attempt by Shamir to abort any peace initiative such as the Palestinian initiative and other intiatives that may be launched by any party in the world. Now we have several initiatives: Baker's five points, which fall short of our aspirations as Palestinian leaders and people. Shamir wants to isolate the Palestinian people outside the West Bank and Gaza in order to deprive the Palestinians of the right to repatriation, which is the sacred right of every Palestinian when a Palesltinian state is established. Third, Shamir knows that the Palestinians used to reject everything without considering or fully studying it. What is the PLO's position on all this?

[Amin] And on the 10 Egyptian points?

[Khuri] And the 10 points raised by President Husni Mubarak. In light of this situation, we are studying and consulting with President Husni Mubarak, with our Arab brothers, and our friends in the West, particularly with Sweden, which is playing an important role in bringing our viewpoints close to Israel's. We met with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson during the Swedish king's visit here. We talked about this subject. Now we are waiting. We did not give a final answer on the five points or on the 10 points.

[Amin] The five points were rejected in Baghdad?

[Khuri] The rejection is not final.

[Amin] Therefore, the door is still open?

[Khuri] I tell you that we have left the door open.

[Amin] Until when? Are you waiting for a particular event?

[Khuri] We are awaiting the next israeli and U.S. move; to see if there is a good initiative from James Baker or President Bush in the direction of peace and the Palestinian initiative. If nothing like that happens, we will naturally reject everything imposed on us.

[Amin] So, the PLO position can be summed up as follows: The PLO is awaiting Israeli-U.S. contacts in order to adopt a certain position. Israel may reject the five points and the United States may agree to some amendments. In this light, the PLO will take its position. Is this true?

[Khuri] Yes, this is known.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Foreign Ministers Meet To Discuss Summit

Sri Lankan Official Arrives

BK0511112289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr B.D. Tilakaratna, arrived in Islamabad today to attend the meeting of the SAARC [South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation] programming and standing committees beginning tomorrow. It will discuss agenda for the SAARC foreign ministers' council meeting starting on Wednesday [8 November].

More Officials Arrive

BK0511160289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The 2-day session of the programming and standing committees of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—begins in Islamabad tomorrow. This session will prepare the agenda for the meeting of the foreign ministers' council. The council meeting begins on Wednesday [8 November]. The foreign secretaries of Bangladesh, Maldives, and Sri Lanka arrived in Islamabad today.

Speaking to newsmen on his arrival, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said that his country has full association with the SAARC and that they would continue their struggle to strengthen it.

Maldivian Foreign Secretary Ibrahim Zaki said his country attaches great importance to the organization. He said the South Asian countries can cooperate with one another on a number of common issues.

Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary B.D. Tilakaratna expressed the hope that the session will further promote bilateral cooperation.

Bangladhesi, Nepalese Ministers Arrive

BK0711145189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] A 2-day meeting of the South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation [SAARC] Foreign Ministers Council is being held in Islamabad from tomorrow. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto will inaugurate the meeting which will consider among other things the pace of implementation of the decision of the last SAARC summit in Islamabad.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud and Nepalese Foreign Minister Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya arrived in Islamabad this evening to attend the meeting of the SAARC Foreign Ministers Council. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan welcomed them at the airport.

Arriving Members Speak on Meetings

BK0611090689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The 2-day meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] programming and standing committees begins in Islamabad today to prepare the agenda for the seventh session of the council of ministers which will begin on Wednesday [8 November]. The committee will review the pace of the implementation of the major decisions taken at the fourth SAARC summit.

Meanwhile, SAARC Secretary General K.K. Bhargava, who arrived in Islamabad last night, said that despite certain issues between member countries, the SAARC, as a common platform, will make further progress to realize its goals. He lauded Pakistan for its performance as chairman of the organization and said that under the distinguished leadership of Pakistan, the next meeting will be another step toward achieving the goals of the organization.

Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh said that like ASEAN and the EEC, SAARC will prove fruitful in promoting economic relations.

The Bhutanese foreign secretary said that the SAARC will give more attention to improving the economic condition of the people.

Programming Committee Meeting Begins

BK0611090289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] The programming committee of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries began its meeting in Islamabad this morning.

The standing committee of the foreign secretaries is meeting in the afternoon.

Both the meetings will prepare agenda for the foreign ministers' council meeting beginning on Wednesday [8 November]. The meetings will also review the progress of the implementation of the decisions taken at the fourth SAARC summit held in Islamabad in December last. The establishment of human resource center and the measures to streamline the working of the SAARC secretariat will also come up for discussion.

Foreign Secretaries Committee Meets

BK0611161589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The meeting of the standing committee of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign secretaries which began in Islamabad this afternoon, approved the report of the programming committee and began discussion on the 23-point agenda for the meeting of the foreign ministers' council. Pakistan's foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan, presided over the meeting.

Briefing newsmen on the details, a foreign office spokesman said the meeting reviewed the pace of implementation of the program on the coordinated modalities, a report on streamlining the working of the SAARC secretariat, and the implementation of the decisions of the fourth SAARC summit. The committee is considering steps to encourage the participation of nongovernmental institutions in the activities of SAARC and to

establish liaison between them. In reply to a question, he said matters pertaining to the SAARC summit are included in the interim agenda of the foreign ministers' council. This also includes discussion on the dates of the fifth SAARC summit.

The spokesman said the programming committee finalized the program of activities of the SAARC for 1989-89 today. The committee reviewed several proposals on setting up regional offices like the regional centers on malaria, weather, tuberculosis narcotics, and appropriate technology. The committee stressed that instead of setting up a large number of new organizations, the performance of existing organizations of this sort should be coordinated. The committee also noted that the SAARC fellowship plan continues successfully. However, an independent technical committee has been set up to supervise the educational sector. Therefore, the issues pertaining to educational activities will be handled through this committee now.

Ministers Emphasize Cooperation

BK0711080889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Standing Committee has underlined the need for giving a new thrust to the ongoing programs and to identify new areas of cooperation. The foreign secretaries of the seven SAARC nations—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Nepal—meeting in the Pakistani capital Islamabad have stressed that cooperation should expand to areas of education, trade and industry, and science and technology. They reviewed various projects and programs of cooperation at their opening session yesterday. A strong feeling was for streamlining the integrated programs of action and more participation of nongovernmental organizations for furthering the SAARC activities.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Ratan Salve, reports from Islamabad that the opening session of the Standing Committee was held in a cordial atmosphere. The SAARC secretary general, Mr K.K. Bhargava, presented a detailed review of ongoing activities and a calendar for future programs. The foreign secretaries will formulate their recommendations, which will go before the council of ministers meeting beginning tomorrow.

The foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, met his Pakistani counterpart, Dr Humayun Khan, yesterday and discussed bilateral matters. Pending issues between the two countries came up for review, and it was decided that dialogue on these should be resumed the moment current preoccupation and engagements in both the countries are over.

Egypt

Paper Says 'Hopes' Pinned on Bush Administration

JN0211181089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Bush ...and Hopes Pinned on Him!"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has an opportunity—that may not be repeated—to occupy an excellent position, not only in his own country but also in the view of world public opinion, if he decides to pay more attention to the Middle East question, and if he can restore the old confidence people had in the traditions established by the great U.S. presidents—traditions based on equality, justice, and the right of all peoples to freedom and self-determination.

We do not deny that since President Bush assumed office in January, U.S. policy has undergone some changes, even though they are still meager and slow regarding the Palestine question. However, there is no doubt that this change is an unusual phenomenon in Washington administrations—from Truman to Reagan—with the exception of Jimmy Carter. We still hope that this change will gradually develop until the White House regains its ability to tackle the tragedy of the Palestinian people on the basis of international legitimacy and the right of all peoples to a homeland and the freedom to choose their own government.

We will not allow our imagination to go so far as to conceive the possibility that the United States would take a stand against Israel, its ally and protege, in favor of the people of Palestine, or of any Arab cause. Such a stand is still too remote to be reasonably conceived. It does not, however, imply the impossibility of working toward correcting the errors, restoring the usurped rights to their owners by using peaceful means, and solving the problems that disturb international peace and security, to the benefit of the entire international community.

Recent statements by officials in Washington, led by Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, have revealed the certainty that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is the only element among the parties to the conflict that constitutes an obstacle to peace efforts in the Middle East, in view of his intransigent and unreasonable opposition and with his ceaseless attempts to thwart any hope for a settlement of the main crisis in the region. Despite this, the Bush administration still hesitates to take a decisive stand on Shamir's intransigence, contrary to all the expectations of those who still hope that the U.S. President's long experience prior to entering the White House has allowed him to learn everything about the Palestine question.

We wonder whether Bush will fulfill the hopes that all lovers of justice and peace are pinning on him?

Paper Criticizes 'Awn's Rejection of Accord

NC0311101489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticizes the stand of Michel 'Awn, head of the so-called military government in Lebanon, on the national accord document signed recently by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if and welcomed by all.

In today's issue, AL-AKHBAR says 'Awn's stand was not a surprise to many as he was not expected to abandon his dreams and illusions of controlling Lebanon despite his failure since the formation of his sham government.

AL-AKHBAR adds that 'Awn's desperate attempts to cling to imaginary power will not succeed, especially after the Maronite Phalangist Party and the Maronite Patriarch have abandoned him and have welcomed the al-Ta'if accord, which is the first real opportunity to restore to Lebanon its genuine Arab identity.

AL-AKHBAR says that 'Awn, and those behind him, must know that the wheel of peace will continue to turn forward and that no one will be allowed to abort the big step taken to restore amity between the various Lebanese factions and parties. This step is the one and only way to preserve Lebanon, safeguard its sovereignty and independence, and protect it from partition.

AL-AHRAM Assails 'Awn

NC0411165989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0627 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has warned of the continued rejection of the al-Ta'if accord by Michel 'Awn, head of the so-called military government in Lebanon, and his placing obstacles in the way of its implementation, which aimed to extricate Lebanon from its ordeal.

The paper noted that the entire Lebanese situation again threatens to explode after a lull, during which hopes, shattered by the mood of a single man who alone and separated even from his Christian deputies, had revived.

In today's editorial, the paper says that in his new isolation 'Awn wants to return Lebanon to the era of destruction by circumventing national unity in order to dissolve the parliament. The paper notes that 'Awn believes that any solution contradicting his personal views is necessarily against Lebanon's interest.

The paper points out that, by breaking away from 'Awn, endorsing the al-Ta'if accord, favoring the homeland's higher interest, and agreeing to abolish the sectarian system in Lebanon, the Lebanese Christian deputies have unmasked him, he who claims to defend the interest of the whole of Lebanon. In the first place, 'Awn established his authority after confronting some of the Christian militias and had the final say over them. Then, the paper added, he claimed he was defending the

homeland against the Syrian danger only and ignored the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

The paper said 'Awn saw what Syria did in West Beirut and did not see what Israel did in southern Lebanon, alleging his arm is not long enough to reach there.

Paper Denounces Velayati's Statement on Lebanon

NC0111064289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR is calling on Arab leaders to take a strict stand on attempts by suspect entities, inside and outside Lebanon, to torpedo the national accord document which the Lebanese deputies approved during their meetings in al-Ta'if.

Under the headline "Silence These Ravens," the paper writes that letting elements with questionable objectives, inside and outside Lebanon, torpedo what the Arab tripartite committee had achieved means leaving the reins once again in the hands of Lebanon's enemies who can push it back to the vicious circle of death and destruction, the horrendous impact of which still aches in every Arab and human conscience.

In an editorial to be published Wednesday, AL-AKHBAR adds that Arab leaders are requested now, more than ever, to take a strict stand to obstruct these ravens that can only live in desolation and among the ruins.

The paper concludes that certain individuals and groups inside and outside Lebanon have been offended by the al-Ta'if agreement because it will destroy the hopes and the efforts they had made to perpetuate the state of chaos, partition, and perdition which prevailed in Lebanon for 14 years. Hence, they rushed to denounce the al-Ta'if agreement, and indulged in hysterical threats that promise destruction if the agreement is implemented.

As an example, the paper refers to remarks made in Damasus by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who announced his country's rejection of al-Ta'if agreement. The paper denounces this stand and asks: Is Lebanon an Iranian property that entitles Iran to the right of rejecting the Lebanese deputies acceptance of that agreement?

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Lebanese Parliament

NC0211151989 Cairo MENA in English 1425 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (MENA)—Egypt today welcomed the call of Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, to hold a meeting for Lebanese parliamentarians on Saturday in Beirut.

Egypt hoped that the meeting takes place on schedule in a way that enables the Lebanese legitimate representatives to express their will freely and away from any pressure or threats.

This was included in statement by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The statement also hoped that the meeting would lead to the election of a new president and a speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Israeli Maneuvering Called 'Serious Mistake'

NC0311080589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM newspaper says that Israel is committing a serious mistake if it believes it can continue its policy of maneuvering and procrastination without paying a price.

In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that Israel's attempts to create a rift between the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinians abroad, as well as its attempts to drive a wedge between the PLO and the United States in order to stop the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, will not succeed.

AL-AHRAM asserts that Israel's attempts to maneuver and procrastinate are wrong. Despite the special relations between Israel and the United States, there are several indications that Washington's patience has begun to run out. The U.S. silence over Israeli intransigence must not be interpreted as a sign of failure or weakness but as a sign of a confident U.S. policy in the region.

AL-AHRAM adds that that these factors and considerations will not last for long, especially as the world in general and the Middle East in particular are witnessing drastic developments and changes in ideas, ideologies, and tendencies, which will inevitably force the United States to reconsider its policy and adopt a more objective stand.

Air Force Commander Comments on Israeli Satellite

JN0211132289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 6

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Ala' Barakat, the commander of the Air Force, has asserted that our aircraft can reach any target that may pose a threat to us in the region. He said that our Air Force is able to carry out the tasks required from it in pursuance of our policy of peace. [passage omitted]

In a news conference yesterday on the 57th anniversary of the Air Force, which falls the day after tomorrow, Lt Gen 'Ala' Barakat said the Air Force will carry out a maneuver on Sunday in which a target deep in hostile territory will be seized in cooperation with airborne assault troops.

Regarding the Israeli satellite, the Air Force commander said: It is a technological challenge for Arabs. We must be cautious about it as its influence is not limited to the Egyptian forces alone, but to all Arabs.

He added: The satellite is an expensive means of reconnaissance. It has a short life span of 4 months, and we have cheaper means to gather information. We can

manufacture the satellite, but we cannot afford it. Therefore, Arab states must cooperate.

He said: The EC-2 [name as published] early warning aircraft have been tied in with the automated control system and this was a dream for us. This gives us a warning time of 20 minutes, which is considered a very long period of time for the Air Force.

Lt Gen 'Ala' Barakat said the joint "Bright Star" exercises with the United States, will be conducted during the period 11 to 17 November. He said: We benefit from the exercises to train our troops to deal with tactics unknown to us. We also benefit from seeing the weapons used by the United States and from analyzing the training results. [passage omitted]

Comments on 'Peace Strategy'

JN0211191589 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Oct 89 pp 1, 10

[By Jamal Kamal]

[Text] Air Force Commander Lieutenant General 'Ala'-al-Din Barakat has affirmed that our Air Force is capable of carrying out the required missions within the framework of the peace strategy adopted by Egypt and our Armed Forces.

He said the Egyptian Air Force has a long arm which can reach any target in the region. He said what we currently possess covers half of the area in which we live and that all the Egyptian fighter planes are equipped for mid-air refueling, which enables them to reach any target.

At a news conference on Air Force Day yesterday, Lt Gen Barakat added that the Israeli satellite poses no threat to the Egyptian Air Forces inasmuch as it constitutes a technological challenge to the Arab countries.

He said we in the Egyptian Air Force have priorities in armament. He said we currently have sufficient reconnaissance and warning systems to fulfill the missions required by our Armed Forces.

He said the political and military leadership is working continuously to promote and equip our Air Force with sophisticated weapons out of its full awareness of the major role of the Air Force in implementing the state's policies.

Lt Gen Barakat said in exclusive remarks to AL-JUMHURIYAH that contracts are being negotiated to purchase the fourth batch of F-16 aircraft equipped with anti-ship air-to-surface missiles. These aircraft will be equipped to use radar-guided missiles "Aim Fu" which have a range of 20 km. These planes will also be equipped with infrared and laser night vision equipment. He said these planes are scheduled to be received late 1992.

He added that studies are under way to equip F-16 planes with protection systems from radar-guided and thermal missiles. These systems monitor hostile movements and guide aircraft automotically.

He explained that the third batch of F-16 planes will arrive in Egypt early 1991.

He added that it has been agreed with the United States to equip some Beechcraft planes for purposes of radio reconnaissance. Such a plane is considered an airborne radio reconnaissance station.

He said Egypt concluded deals to purchase two types of pilotless guided aircraft. The first is medium-range for strategic reconnaissance purposes, and the second is for tactical reconnaissance purposes and can locate targets 1,000 km away.

He said Beechcraft planes have been developed to carry out maritime reconnaissance missions by linking them to submarines to locate targets and inform naval units about them. He said this plane has also appeared with side-vision radar and can locate sideway military targets 150 km away.

He said Egypt will sign a deal next year to purchase Apache helicopters, which will be equipped with Hellfire antitank missiles.

He added that the Air Forces have built overhaul workshops for the Sea King, Commander, Mi-8 helicopters, and a part of the Mirage 2000 planes. He said the Air Force is building an overhaul workshop for the engines of F-16 aircraft and will build an overhaul and maintenance workshop for three to four types of aircraft airframes.

He said the United States has agreed to supply Egypt with Imdad [as published] guided missiles, which are extremely sophisticated guided missiles.

Solidarity Committees Support Palestinians

NC0211151189 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (MENA)—The Egyptian-Syrian-Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees affirmed commitment to boost the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands and support the struggle of the Lebanese National Resistance.

The two sides also affirmed commitment to the joint action for promoting Arab solidarity as it is the cornerstone for liberation and progress on the path of Arab unity.

This was expressed during a meeting by Ahmad Hamrush head of the Egyptian committee for solidarity with the Syrian committee for solidarity at present visiting Cairo. The two sides also dealt with issues of interest to the Arab nation and the Afro-Asian solidarity movement.

The Egyptian side welcomed the visit of the Syrian delegation which is considered a start for activating relations between the Egyptian and Syrian committees.

Iraq Envoy 'Appreciates' Labor Contribution

JN0211203289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Nov 89 p 1

[By Muhammad Barakat]

[Text] Iraq's Ambassador in Cairo Nabil al-Najm says his country appreciates the Egyptian labor's contribution in expediting the construction process in Iraq. On remittances, the ambassador said these will be handled within the framework of relevant regulations and so as not to harm the interests of Egyptian workers in Iraq.

Al-Najm emphasized that Iraq was willing to work out a solution to the problem of the transfers and overomce all the obstacles standing in the way. Speaking after a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the ambassador said Iraq was concerned for the interests of Arab labor in Iraq but that Iraq had special economic circumstances of its own in view of the war situation it had been through.

AL-AKHBAR has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is closely following developments in the problem of remittances of Egyptians working in Iraq. Egypt has raised the issue with the Iraqi side as a matter of urgency as it touches the rights of Egyptians employed in sisterly Iraq. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received assurances from the Iraqi side that they are working on this problem.

Trade Union Official Comments

NC0311162189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the General Federation of Egyptian Trade Unions [GFETU], has stated that he has asked the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to quickly intervene with the Iraqi authorities to solve the problems facing Egyptian workers in Iraq.

In a statement to MENA, Al-'Amawi said that Ministry officials hold daily contacts to solve these problems, which include depriving Egyptian workers of their rights, the workers' inability to transfer their savings outside Iraq, and the possibility of sudden dismissal. He noted that the GFETU has appealed to the Iraqi authorities to solve these problems, which began to appear in July. He expressed hope for a quick solution within the framework of the principles and spirit of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

In his statement, Al-'Amawi explained that as soon as these problems appeared in July, he sent an urgent memorandum to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan. In the memorandum he stated that he had received several letters from Egyptian workers in Iraq explaining their living and working conditions, including their sudden dismissal in violation of amended Iraqi Labor Law No 151 for the year 1970. He also stated that Egyptian workers, some holding their jobs for over 10 years, are being dismissed without being given certificates of merit for the years of service and without being given the legal notice to rearrange their affairs, something which has created a bitter feeling among these workers.

Al-'Amawi explained that the Egyptian workers' letters indicate that instructions have been issued to reduce the number of Egyptian workers in government departments, including the Ministries of Industry and Trade. The letters also refer to a memorandum issued by the Military Industries Organization. Memorandum No 6/3/6162, dated 10 July 1989, clearly calls for the reduction of the number of Arab employees and contractors and for keeping only those who do not transfer money abroad.

Al-'Amawi said that in his memorandum to Taha Yasin Ramadan, he proposed that the Governments of Egypt and Iraq and the trade unions of the two countries coordinate over the future needs for Egyptian workers. He also proposed that the dismissed workers, who number quite a few, be employed in other fields of work, especially in view of the new conditions brought about by the formation of the ACC and the development projects in Iraq. The memorandum also contains the Egyptian workers' view on social security, currency transfer regulations, and other topics related to Egyptian employement in Iraq.

In his statement, al-'Amawi asserted that the political leadership of the two countries will find an early solution to these problems.

The Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Training is in continuous contact with the Iraqi authorities and the Egyptian labor attache in Baghdad to discuss the affairs of Egyptian workers in Iraq.

Sudanese Health Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0411121289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Dr Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj, Sudanese minister of health, arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a Sudanese delegation for a week-long visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Union Leader Statement After Conference

NC0411203489 Cairo MENA in English 0835 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 4 (MENA)—A Moroccan delegation led by Kafouli Husseini, secretary general of Moroccan Miners Union, left here this morning after he took part in the second constitutional conference of the International Organization for Miners Unions that wound up its meetings here on Thursday. In a pre-departure statement, Husseini said that the Moroccan delegation submitted to the conference a proposal on putting an end to the infiltration of multi-national companies in mining works in the Third World and on setting up training centres for unionist leaderships at international level and on consolidating Afro-Arab unions.

He was seen off by Fuad Drahim, chairman of General Union of African Mines who pointed out that on the fringe of this conference, a meeting was held by the executive council of the African Federation of Mines Workers that dealt with the new drive towards solving African debt issue and the low prices of mine ores.

Fuad Drahim, who is also chairman of the African Federation of Mine Unions, added that Palestinian Mines Union was admitted for the first time as member of the Cairo-based International Organization of Mines Unions. He added that the international organization issued a resolution condemning all Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and called for securing the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Egypt was chosen as a member of the organization's executive office.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for Brussels 4 Nov

NC0411125389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Brussels early this morning, heading a small delegation on a 3-day visit to Belgium to attend a meeting of the Egyptian-EC cooperation council.

In a predeparture statement, he said that during his visit, he will hold several meetings with Belgian officials on Egyptian-Belgian relations as well as on political and economic issues of common interest.

He disclosed that he will take this opportunity to meet with the foreign ministers of the 12 EC countries, led by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, as France is the current chairman of the EC.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that he will review the most significant issues that concern Egypt and West European countries, foremost among which is Middle East peace, the latest Lebanese developments, the developing countries' indebtedness in general and that of Africa in particular, the North-South dialogue in light of the quadripartite initiative in which President Mubarak had participated, and issues of environment preservation.

He noted he will also hold talks on EC economic aid to Egypt and on EC-financed projects.

Electricity Minister on Power 'Grid Linkup'

JN0211171789 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Oct 89 pp 1, 14

[Text] The Arab Development Fund and the Islamic Bank have earmarked $200 million for the implementation of the first electricity grid linkup involving Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. The implementation of this project will be completed in 1994. Egypt and Jordan yesterday signed an agreement for a project to link their national grids within the framework of the five-state grid linkage.

This came in a statement by Electricity Minister Eng Mahir Abazah during a meeting of the industrial committee of the National Democratic Party chaired by Eng Fu'ad Abu-Zaghlah. The minister added that a well-known firm of consultants is currently conducting technical studies on the issue, at a cost of $400,000. He affirmed that there are advantages to the five-state grid linkage and that it is not a burden. He added that the joint grid will help distribute loads among the five states.

Eng Mahir Abazah said that technical studies are currently under way to connect the grids of the [Arabian] Gulf region into one electrical grid, which is envisaged will link with the five-state grid. The linkup will be implemented in Baghdad, which will be connected to a grid in Kuwait and another one in Dahran in Saudi Arabia. As for Saudi Arabia, it will be connected to the remaining Gulf states in one joint grid. He pointed out that Egypt is conducting technical studies on linking the two parts of Yemen in a joint electrical grid. The implementation of this project will cost $20 million, the minister added.

The electricity minister asserted that the the energy ministers of Egypt, Zaire, Sudan, and Central Africa will meet in Cairo late December to forge an agreement on the establishment of a joint electrical grid linking the four states. He added that a secretary general will be assigned to follow up the implementation of the project which is envisaged will connect Kinshasa and Cairo which in turn will be linked to the five-state grid. A grid linkup will be established between Kinshasa and Algiers which will be connected with Libya, Tunisia, and Morocco, the minister said. Thus, the volume of the electricity generated will reach 500,000 mw. He indicated that it is possible to connect Africa to Europe and Asia.

Eng Abazah indicated that the African Bank will contribute to the financing of the inter-African electrical grid, the launching of which will cost $100 million. Connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe into one electrical grid is expected to be completed in 10 years. The cost of such an endeavor will amount to $25 billion.

The minister added that electrical power stations will be established in al-Sallum. He went on to say that these stations will be connected to stations in Alexandria and Tubruq in Libya. Then, Libya will link Tubruq to Banghazi. Thus, the Arab grid will be connected to North Africa, reaching Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, the minister said.

Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab told the committee that the Libyan Government had requested to be supplied with expertise. A Libyan industrial delegation will arrive in Cairo to discuss the bilateral areas of cooperation, he added. He went on to say that the Libyan market is in dire need of Egyptian products. He said that Egypt is expected to conclude a bilateral trade exchange deal with Libya.

The industry minister affirmed that the increase in the prices of iron and steel does not exceed 11 percent. He added that investment in this industry has not been

suspended. Regarding inter-Arab cooperation, he said that Egyptian public sector firms were awarded contracts to export their products to Iraq. A delegation of Tunisian businessmen will arrive in Cairo in mid-November to meet with Egyptian businessmen to discuss the issue of launching joint projects and means of investment in both countries, Eng 'Abd-al-Wahhab said.

The industry minister referred to the importance of establishing an integrated data center on Arab industries to bolster inter-Arab industrial ties, considering that this is a basic demand of the Arab industry ministers.

Numayri Political, Media Activity Forbidden

JN0411173589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] The Egyptian Government has warned toppled Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri against carrying out any political or media activity at present. Numayri has stressed that he will abide by the Egyptian authorities' instructions.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have also stressed Sudan's satisfaction with the Egyptian Government's stand toward the former Sudanese president.

Earlier, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the ruling military council in Sudan, had expressed his dissatisfaction with Numayri's activity following the military coup in Khartoum.

Economic Reform To Focus on Deficit, Inflation

JN0411170789 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[By Jalal Rashid]

[Excerpt] Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, cabinet affairs and administrative development minister, has affirmed that Egypt is proceeding with serious steps to achieve economic reforms by utilizing all natural and human resources.

Dr 'Ubayd added that the government's priority task right now is to work to reduce inflation rates, the deficit in the state general budget, and rates of expenditures. He went on to say that the budget deficit has been reduced from 16 percent to 12 percent.

This came in an inaugural speech opening the meetings of the Egyptian-Belgian Businessmen's Council which is affiliated to the Egyptian Businessmen Society.

The minister said that the public sector will witness structural managerial changes allowing for more freedom of action to be vested in the management of public sector firms. He added that the state's ownership of capital will not change the nature of economic installations. He went on to say that the government's success in reducing the deficit in the state general budget has been an important factor in curbing inflation.

The minister said that foreign trade will be freed of all restrictions. He added that plans during the upcoming phase will seek to expand the area of farmlands whose production will be allocated for exports. He went on to say that the inability of the Egyptian economy to service debts at present is a transient problem rather than a permanent and unchangeable one. He affirmed that the state's plan will achieve the balance that will enable the government to service its debts.

Dr 'Ubayd said that Egypt currently has an electrical power surplus enough to meet its needs until the year 1996. He added that the Egyptian electrical power grids will be linked to those of Jordan, Syria, Turkey, and Europe.

The minister indicated that Egypt currently has large oil resources, considering the oil discoveries being reported. He added that studies have shown that there are large oil reserves in Egypt. He went on to say that natural gas is being currently used instead of oil to generate electricity. He said that this allows us to save large quantities of oil which can be exported.

Dr 'Ubayd said that a new school will be opened every week and that the number of students enrolled reached 12 million in June. He added that the Egyptian economy is currently witnessing a freedom of capital transfer between Egypt and world states. He went on to say that Egypt under President Mubarak is witnessing stability, security, a freedom of speech, and democracy.

The minister said that the credit facilities provided by the banking sector to businessmen during the past 5 years increased by 200 percent and that the volume of deposits in banks during the same period increased fivefold. He added that wages, especially those of skilled workers, increased by 300 percent over the past 5 years. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Decree Creates 'Popular Defense Forces'

EA0611215089 Paris AFP in English 2124 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 6 (AFP)—The head of Sudan's military junta, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, issued a decree Monday for the creation of "popular defence forces," the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY SUNA reported.

The decree said the field of operations of the forces would include the south and west of the country, where serious unrest and armed rebellion have reigned for several yours.

The paramilitary troops would, the decree said, help the military and other regular security forces defend the homeland and deal with "catastrophes and crises."

They could be given responsibility for particular tasks by the Army commander-in-chief and would have the job of training the population in "civil defence and military defence," the decree said.

The units would comprise "volunteers of Sudanese nationality aged at least 16 years."

Al-Bashir on National Dialogue, Other Issues

PM0211125989 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 30 Oct 89 pp 17-19

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudanese Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Hasan] Do you believe that the parties that pursued the peace process in the south are still as eager and cooperative to make that task succeed? And how is the present situation, now that the cease-fire period has ended?

[Al-Bashir] Of course, our assessment of past experiences and past efforts in handling the southern issue reflects the fact that the price of partisanship and party conspiracies was high. And anyone who is desirous of peace will remain desirous of peace. If we look at the national dialogue conference, we will note that many of the participants took part in past attempts to achieve peace. Some of them participated in Koka Dam, in the Ambo conference, or in the recent agreement. And a major section participated in the conference to contribute their views and the lessons they learned from their past experiments—which reflects our eagerness and support for any constructive contribution.

[Al-Hasan] That is at the domestic level; what about the foreign level?

[Al-Bashir] At the regional level we made contacts with Ethiopian President Mengistu, who has influence over the [Garang] movement, since he shelters it in his country. We also made contacts with the Egyptian brothers by virtue of their status in Africa and relationship with President Mengistu and the movement, as well as the contacts they made with it recently. We are trying to benefit completely from these factors in order to cooperate in achieving what is desired at the negotiating table. And, according to the development of negotiations, we will seek assistance from the neighboring states, especially Libya and President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

[Al-Hasan] How are contacts being made with Egypt, Ethiopia, and the movement?

[Al-Bashir] Our contacts with the brothers in Egypt are continuing, and all positive steps are appreciated. There are also contacts between us and the brothers in Ethiopia, and, of course, our contacts with the movement come last, the most recent of which was the invitation addressed to it via the national dialogue conference to take part therein. They responded negatively, however, and we are now awaiting the results of the national dialogue conference. Then we will draw up a program and form a delegation to the negotiations. We also set the date and venue of the next round of negotiations.

We consider the national dialogue conference part of the preparation for the next round of negotiation with the movement. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] What is the position on Arab economic groupings?

[Al-Bashir] There are economic groupings—namely, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]—which we believe constitute a positive and healthy phenomenon leading to the strategic objective—uniting the Arab nation. We in Sudan believe we are qualified to join one of two groupings—the ACC or the UMA—but we prefer another formula under which there is a kind of integration among Sudan, Egypt, and Libya—and that, in turn, would lead to stronger links between one grouping and another; that is, with the Arab grouping via Egypt and the Maghreb grouping via Libya. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] Do Marshal Ja'far Numayri's recent activities in Cairo alarm you?

[Al-Bashir] Politically, Ja'far Numayri's role has ended. We paid no attention to and have no time for the recent letter, because our time belongs to the Sudanese people, their anxieties, and fateful issues. We believe it would be a crime to waste the Sudanese people's time on something futile and fruitless. The Egyptian brothers spoke to us about Ja'far Numayri, and we told them: Do not preoccupy yourself with him; let him do what he wants. Let him write whatever he wants; he will never affect us. As for the Sudanese people, they adopted a position toward him. We did not ask for his expulsion; nor do we have time for him. [passage omitted]

Minister Interviewed on South, Human Rights

PM0211152389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 89 p 5

[Interview with Guidance and Orientation Minister 'Abdallah Deng Lual by 'Azzah 'Uthman Hasan in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Hasan] Was separation actually raised, or has that issue been fabricated and exaggerated?

[Lual] Separation of the south is absolutely out of the question, whatever the circumstances. The national dialogue conference, which comprised all influential political figures, unanimously agreed on the need to establish a federal system as a solution to the problem.

[Hasan] If the establishment of a federal system proves difficult, do you have an alternative?

[Lual] It is possible to think about a confederal regional rule formula, but in no way separation.

[Hasan] The Arab Organization for Human Rights issued a statement in which it said that some 300 people were detained without any charges. What truth is there in this?

[Lual] Every state is entitled to protect itself from its enemies. Therefore, anyone carrying out political activities banned by law—like spreading lies or writing against the state with a view to stirring up hatred or confusion—will be arrested to enable the government to carry out its work. We care about human rights, but within the framework of sound views and constructive criticism.

[Hasan] What is your view of the leaflet signed by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and distributed recently in Sudan?

[Lual] Such leaflets are lies. If the government really wanted to liquidate anyone, it would have been easy to do, but it does not embark on anything like that. This is why I say that the objective of the leaflet is to cause confusion and distortion and to distract public opinion from the country's principal issues.

[Hasan] What achievements has the government of the National Salvation Revolution so far made, and what promises has it fulfilled?

[Lual] Everyone knows that the party government left the country exhausted, especially economically, and the new government cannot do everything overnight. However, despite this, we have placed the right man in the right place on the basis of competence, experience, and commitment. And we have questioned anyone whom investigation proved responsible for the economy's deterioration. Furthermore, we have established new international relations based on friendship in order to help improve economic conditions, for which we have begun to lay down sound foundations for a solution. [Passage omitted]

SPLA on 'Khartoum's Racial Sectarianism'

EA0211110689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[From "With the Battalions" program]

[Text] Comrades in struggle: The explosive situation in Sudan has reached yet another stage of intensity. The liberation of Kurmuk, precipitated by 'Umar al-Bashir's intransigence and warmongering, has again exposed Khartoum's racial sectarianism.

As you may remember, when the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] first captured Kurmuk and Qaysan in late 1987, Khartoum (?released) its racial and religious (?fire) and appealed to the Muslim Arab countries to come and rescue Kurmuk from what they described as infidel African hands. Money, arms, and personnel were sent in from various quarters of the Arab world to reoccupy Kurmuk, but when Kapoeta, Nasir, Torit, Nimule, and Bor were liberated by the SPLA there was no single voice from the sectarian rulers in Khartoum to their foreign backers to come and assist them in reoccupying these towns, some of which are much more bigger than Kurmuk. Three of these towns are provincial capitals, unlike Kurmuk, which is a district headquarters, and yet they were ignored. Why?

The answer is simple. The rulers in Khartoum have been considering the south a separate nation from the rest of Sudan. Employees of Arab origin from the privileged areas or privileged classes sent from Khartoum to work in the south have been given expatriate allowances. The businessmen of Arab origin operating in the south in collusion with the corrupt rulers in Khartoum do not bank, neither do they build, in the south. All their money is banked in Khartoum, where they also build their storeyed houses.

This separatist attitude of the rulers in Khartoum has been responsible for the 23 years of bloodshed in the Sudan, and it is precisely this separatist attitude that the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] is fighting to end by creating a Sudanese commonality for every citizen to pay his or her undivided allegiance, regardless of race, religion, tribe or origin.

Every peace-loving Sudanese and other nationals abroad agree with us that peace can never be achieved in separation. Sudan is like a big magnet: We can break it into several pieces and in every piece we can still remain with the north and south poles, and if the problem is between the south and north, as alleged by the rulers in Khartoum, then we shall have multiplied the problem into several parts of Sudan by breaking it into many pieces of south and north.

At the end we shall realize that we have created unnecessary problems for ourselves and then come back to re-collect these small north and south pieces of Sudan to build a one united new democratic Sudan, which the SPLM/SPLA is now calling for, and if it will have to take us another 23 years of bitter struggle to bring these pieces together if we break them now. [Sentence as heard]

But why break them, and under whose orders? 'Umar al-Bashir's orders? We in the SPLM/SPLA, as our leader, John Garang de Mabior, emphatically put it, we shall continue to fight any form of separation wherever it emanates from in the Sudan.

It is regrettable that some OAU member-states which drew up the OAU Charter of noninterference in the internal affairs of the other countries are the ones now supporting 'Umar al-Bashir despite their full knowledge of his separatist inclinations. The memories of our great late African statesmen like Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir of Egypt and Sekou Toure of Guinea will remain fresh in our minds. The world is coming together. Europe is uniting. Africa must also unite.

To go back to our topic of Kurmuk, 'Umar al-Bashir started the war. This is true, and we must tell you this: That ever since 'Umar al-Bashir took over power last 30 June, he has been preparing for war. His series of unilateral cease-fires were but to buy time to prepare his troops for his dry season offensive.

He finally broke his cease-fires on 16 October 1989 by attacking SPLA positions in the Surkum and (Mayak) areas in Blue Nile province. 'Umar al-Bashir thought the SPLA would go to sleep when he flattered the world with his unilateral cease-fires and holding of the one-sided national dialogue conference. He was mistaken.

All the same, he launched his offensive and lost Kurmuk. He is now calling on the people to contribute money for his soldiers to come and reoccupy Kurmuk. The question is: Did you people who are now being asked by 'Umar al-Bashir to contribute money, did you ask 'Umar to send his forces to attack the SPLA? Or did 'Umar coordinate his unprovoked attack on the SPLA with you? We suggest that you keep your little money and earn your existence. There is nearly no living in Khartoum. Prices have skyrocketed and the economy is now at its knees. Why then should you poor people be robbed of your little money that you have for your existence?

Where are the armaments and dollars that were given to 'Umar al-Bashir by his backers to prosecute his senseless war? Above all, where is the money that 'Umar al-Bashir looted from the citizens in Bentiu? In Bentiu everybody knows 'Umar al-Bashir as the looter of people's cattle, sheep, goats, money, and even children. He was a chief slave-trader, now pretending to be the ruler and savior of the Sudan. Do not be deceived, dear citizens. 'Umar al-Bashir merely wants to loot you of the little money that you have. Be firm.

Finance Minister Views 'Economic Deterioration'

EA0311101289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Report on address by Finance Minister Sayyid 'Ali Zaki at economic conference in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] pointing that the conference is being held in a time the country faces serious economic deterioration. The continuous and mounting deficit is expected to rest at more than 7 billion pounds this year, he said. Unless required measures are adopted towards lessening this deficit, the government will be forced to borrow from the banking system, he added. Lending from the banking system has been accumulated during the previous years until reached [as received] 20 billion pounds last July, he explained.

The big gap in the balance of payments which is a consequence of a sharp drop in the exports revenues has led to a scarcity in the supply of exported commodities, he said.

He indicated that the inflation rates are about to reach a stage known as "the excessive inflation". The financial obligations toward the foreign debts have mounted to more than 150 percent out of exports revenues, pinpointing the importance of adopting measures and policies that could convince the donor countries and financial institutions with the country's capability to face this crisis, he said. The minister stated that removing the budget's deficit can be obtained through increasing the customs revenues and a cut in expenditures.

He referred to the importance of seeking ways for removing gradually the subsidy on commodities, pointing that the subsidy exhausts the budget with at least 2 billion dollars annually.

The minister called on the conferees to look into the ways of solving the problem of labour surplus in the government's institutes and reduce the costs of education abroad. He also called for the reduction of diplomatic representations' costs as well as seeking ways for obtaining the exports revenues through the banking system.

The minister called for boosting the private sector to help it play its pioneer role in Sudan's economic activities.

Kassiano Urges Diplomatic Activity in Africa

EA0311103089 Khartoum SUNA in French 0910 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—Brigadier General Dominic Kassiano, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member, has stressed the need to intensify the representation and the political action of the Sudan in the eastern and central African countries as well as in the frontline countries.

He also stressed the importance of visits by the NSRCC leaders to these countries to clarify the developments in the situation prevailing in Sudan and the government's action toward the realization of peace in the south of the country.

Official Meets Operation Lifeline Director

EA0311215789 Khartoum SUNA in French 1535 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, retired, minister of state for defense, has declared that the people and Government of Sudan are in favor of peace. He was referring to the acceptance of the resolutions and recommendations of the national dialogue for a peace conference. The statement was made during a meeting with Michael Priestley, the representative of the UN secretary general in charge of Operation Lifeline. Maj Gen al-Hasan promised that all assistance necessary for the success of Operation Lifeline would be given.

Bahrain

Amir, Others Congratulate New Lebanese President

JN0611172689 Manama WAKH in English 1644 GMT 6 Nov 89

Manama, Nov 6 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Salman Al Khalifah and Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah sent cables of congratulation to the newly elected president of lebanon Rene Mu'awwad.

H.H. the amir of Bahrain, the premier and crown prince wished the Lebanese president success in his mission for the interest of Lebanon.

Amir Receives Visiting Austrian Defense Minister

JN0611172489 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, Nov 6 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Slamam Al Khalifah and Prime Minister Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Austran Defence Minister Robert Lichal and his delegation currently visiting the country.

Present at the audience were Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Defence Minister and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Defence Force Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah and Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Immigration and Passport Affairs Shaykh 'Ali Ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah and Austrian Ambassador to Bahrain Dr. Johann Demel.

Following the audience, the Austrian Minister said that he reviewed with H.H. the amir and the premier bilateral relations and means of developing and expanding cooperation between Bahrain and Austria.

The visit came at the invitation of the Bahraini defence minister was within the framework of boosting military cooperation between the two countries he added.

Crown Prince Meets Austrian

JN0611173289 Manama WAKH in English 164 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, Nov 6 (GNA)—Bahraini Crown Prince and commander-in-chief of the defence force Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah received here today Austrian Defence Minister Dr. Robert Lichal and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations in addition to issue of mutual interest.

The meeting was atended by Bahraini defence minister Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah and Austrian Ambassador to Bahrain Dr. Johann Demel.

Foreign Minister Departs for GCC Summit

JN0611172889 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, Nov 6 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left Manama today for Muscat to take part in 33rd session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council due to be opened there later in the day.

The Bahraini foreign minister told GUFL NEWS AGENCY that the session is within the frameswork of preparations for the 10th session of the GCC Supreme council.

He said that the ministers will be briefed on the outcome of the G committee for financial and economic cooperation concerning allowing the GCC citizens to practice new economic activities in the council member states.

The ministerial council will study means of pushing forward Iraq-Iran negotiations and supporting the UN secretary general's efforts to implement the UN Security council Resolution 598.

He affirmed that the GCC states will spare no efforts in supporting the Palestinian cause as well as backing the Arab tripartite committee efforts for the sake of restoring the national sovereignty in Lebanon.

He expressed wishes that the 10th session of the GCC Supreme council will reach to constructive resolutions with the aim of supporting the GCC march.

Oman

Qabus Congratulates Lebanon's Mu'awwad on Election

JN0611195889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id has cabled congratulations to His Excellency Rene Mu'awwad on his election as president of the Lebanese Repbulic.

The cable said: Your Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad: It gives me pleasure to congratulate you on your election as president of the sisterly Republic of Lebanon. We wish you success in consolidating national unity and reasserting state sovereignty throughout the country. Wishing you and the brother people of Lebanon security and prosperity, please accept our heartfelt greetings.
[Signed] Your brother Qabus Ibn-Sa'id

Foreign Ministry Statement Supports Mu'awwad

JN0611154889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] An official Omani Foreign Ministry spokesman has released the following statement:

The Sultanate has followed with deep interest the Lebanese House of Deputies' session held in Lebanon on Sunday, 5 November, which elected a new president for the country according to the national reconciliation document passed by the Lebanese lawmakers at the al-Ta'if meetings held between 30 September and 22 October 1989.

The Sultanate hails the Lebanese deputies's efforts in the interest of their country's territorial integrity, independence,and sovereignty, and declares its full support for the election by the Lebanese parliament of His Excellency Rene Mu'awwad as president and wishes him success in shoring up peace and security and stability in the sisterly country.

Deputy Premier Meets U.S. Military's Schwarzkopf

JN0611175089 Manama WAKH in English 1602 GMT 6 Nov 89

Muscat, Nov 6 (GNA)—Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defence Affairs Fahar Ibn Taymur Al Sa'id conferred here today with Commander in Chief of the U.S Central Command General Norman Schwarzkopf.

They reviewed relations between the two countries and issues of mutual concern.

Defense Officials Receive U.S. General

JN0611190889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] His Highness Fahr Ibn-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense, received in his office this morning General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Central Command. They reviewed bilateral ties and issues of shared interest for the two friendly countries.

General Schwarzkopf was also received by His Excellency Sayf Ibn-Hamad, secretary general of the Defense Ministry. They talked about issues of common concern.

His Excellency staff Major General Khamis Ibn-Humayd al-Kalbani, commander of Oman's land forces, also met with Gen Schwarzkopf at an army base this morning.

Qabus Cables Congratulations to Gorbachev

JN0611162989 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id has cabled congratulations to His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the occasion of his country's national day, wishing him good health, happiness, and the Soviet people's continued prosperity.

Qatar

New Lebanese President 'True Start' for Peace

JN0611155489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 6 Nov (WAKH) — The State of Qatar has welcomed the historic step taken by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies of approving the national accord document, electing Rene Mu'awwad as president of Lebanon, and reelecting Mr Husayn al-Husayni as Chamber of Deputies' Speaker.

A responsible source in the Qatari Foreign Ministry described this achievement as a true start for the peace process. He expressed his hope that this process will attain its desired goal, which is to reinstate peace, security, and stability in all parts of Lebanon.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the source called on the Lebanese people of all sects to reach an agreement over the new events to provide them with all the power and support to achieve the desires of the people and put an end to their sufferings throughout the war years.

The source also praised the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee, which continued its peace duties without fail to confront and overcome the difficulties that emerged on the way to a solution.

The source also praised the efforts of the Lebanese deputies, who placed the interest of their country and people over every other consideration. They shouldered the responsibility entrusted to them by their people, country, and the entire world.

PDRY

Unity Committee Issues Communique

EA0311083589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Honorable listeners: Here is the text of the press communique issued by the Unified Political Organization Committee [UPOC] of the two parts of the homeland after its first meeting:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: upholding a sense of national responsibility towards the great aims of the glorious 26 September and 14 October revolutions, and primarily the Yemeni people's great aim of restoring their homeland's unity, and in implementation of the unificatory agreements signed by the leaderships of the two parts, the UPOC of the two parts of the homeland held its first meeting in an atmosphere

of brotherhood, frankness, and truth in Ta'izz from 31 October to 2 November under the chairmanship of Brothers Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, an member of the permanent committee, and Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee.

The committee discussed ideas and proposals germane to its task in a spirit of common conviction of the importance of free and responsible thinking compatible with the aims and principles of the Yemeni revolution and its national and democratic roots and dimensions, distancing itself from all rigid concepts and prejudices and deriving benefit from the national experiments accumulated during the course of the Yemeni revolution and from pan-Arab and human experiments in general.

In the course of its discussions, the committee confirmed the correctness of the trend towards strengthening national participation in political action in a manner serving to strengthen democracy, respect for the opinions of others, and the exercise of the democratic freedoms guaranteed by the draft constitution of the united state. The committee stressed the need to draw inspiration from national action and of the Yemeni people's sacrifices made to assure the victory of the revolution and to protect and develop its gains; to interact with all the national efforts to uphold the aims of the revolution; to embrace everything serving to strengthen and protect the freedom, sovereignty, and progress of the homeland; and to entrench democracy in isolation from all practices tending to contradict democracy.

Having reviewed the political documents of the two parts, the committee observed the existence of many common denominators requiring to be reinforced and developed in a manner serving to promote the realistic thinking emanating from the traditions and special characteristics of Yemeni society with its noble human values and the principles and aims of its victorious revolution.

In conclusion, the committee approved a set of principles to guide the course of its work and dates for subsequent meetings.

Minister Speaks on Dumping, Port Modernization

EA0311131589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The government of Democratic Yemen says that shipping companies, shipowners and ship's captains must bind themselves strictly to the resolution of the UN's international maritime organisation on declaring the Gulf of Aden a special zone in which dumping of polluted waste is prohibited. It calls on world governments and international organizations and bodies to help it protect the Gulf of Aden from pollution and to assist it in modernizing and expanding Aden Port and putting it at the service of international shipping and trade.

Brother Salih 'Abdallah Muthana, minister of communications [title as heard], said this at a press conference he held today at the Ministry of Communications. The press conference was attended by representatives of embassies in aden, international news agencies and representatives of the local media.

Party Secretary Meets YAR Deputy Premier

EA0311081889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The committee for joint political arrangements between the two parts of the homeland continued its meeting at the Republican Palace in Ta'izz. The South Yemen side chaired by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, secretary general, and assistant Central committee secretary [title as heard], and that of the northern part was chaired by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and member of the permanent committee.

ADEN NEWS AGENCY in its report quoted an authoritative source in the committee, as saying there were general feelings of satisfaction regarding the actual level of negotiations at the meetings of the committee. The agency pointed out that a press report would be released tomorrow [2 Nov] on the results of committee's meetings. [passage omitted]

Presidium Hears Report on Iraq Trip

EA0311112089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council met today under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium. The Presidium heard a report on the participation of a PDRY delegation in the brotherly Iraqi people's celebrations marking the reconstruction of the town of Faw. The delegation was led by Brother Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id, member of the Central Committee and the Presidium and chairman of the Higher Committee for People's Control. The report mentioned that Brother Mahdi met the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, to whom he handed a message from his brother, Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

The Presidium stressed the importance of developing bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries in order to promote their interests and the joint Arab cause. It noted our country's desire to strengthen those relations in various fields, in the context of its efforts to develop relations with Arab brothers. It expressed satisfaction with the steady development of Iraqi-Yemeni relations.

The Presidium also discussed a number of other issues, including the ratification of an agreement on the establishment of the Jordanian-Yemeni ministerial committee on comprehensive cooperation, an agreement on economic, technical, cultural and scientific cooperation

between the governments of our country and the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, and another agreement with Jordan on organizing and developing trade.

The Presidium also ratified a loan agreement signed between the government of our country and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, which will provide finance for the integrated rural development project in the central highlands of Abyan Governorate. It also approved the award of a number of decorations and promotions in the Armed Forces.

National Assembly Approves Accord With U.S.

JN0611163789 Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 6 Nov 89

Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—The third meeting of the National Assembly's fall session was held here today.

In this meeting, the assembly passed three draft resolutions to form a legal and judiciary cooperation agreement between Iraq and the United States, amending the personal status law and amending the family law.

The assembly approved also the agenda of its next meeting scheduled for this coming Saturday.

The meeting was attended by representatives of concerned ministries and governmental bodies.

President Saddam Receives Bush, Krenz Cables

JN0611155289 Baghdad INA in English 1525 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a cable of thanks from President George Bush of the United States in reply to President Husayn's cable of condolences for the losses resulted from the earthquake that hit the San Francisco area recently.

President Husayn received also a cable of thanks from Mr Egon Krenz the secretary general of the Central Committee of the United Socialist Party head of State Council of the German Democratic Republic in reply to president Husayn's cable of congratulations on his country's national day.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 5 Nov

JN0511205189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1924 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Brother President leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Baghdad from Cairo this morning on a several-day visit to fraternal Iraq. He was received at the airport by a number of senior Iraqi officials and brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine to fraternal Iraq.

UN Envoy Jan Eliasson Returns to Baghdad

Arrives With Delegation 5 Nov

JN0511215889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Baghdad this evening.

In a statement to INA, he said he held talks during his visit to Tehran with a number of Iranian officials on ways to implement Security Council Resolution No. 598, and expressed hope that progress will be achieved in this regard.

Eliasson's visit to Baghdad is the second in a week.

He was received at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and international observers.

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN0611123089 Baghdad INA in English 1027 GMT 6 Nov 89

Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—Mr Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister today received here Mr Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the U.N. secretary general.

During the meeting, the two sides followed up the talks they had had in Baghdad last week and which tackled means of finding formulas for implementing Security Council Resolution 598 to restore peace between Iraq and Iran.

Mr Eliasson flew in Baghdad last night coming from Tehran on the 3rd leg of his visits to the two capitals.

Holds 2d Session With 'Aziz

JN0611164989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening held a second round of talks with Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general. During this round, they completed the talks they began this morning on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran and in the whole region.

The talks were attended by the Foreign Ministry's under secretary, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, the heads of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations and legal departments, and the delegation accompanying Jan Eliasson.

Iraq, Oman Sign Media Cooperation Agreement

JN0511151689 Baghdad INA in English 1318 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Muscat, Nov. 5, INA—An executive program for cooperation in the fields of information between Iraq and Oman for the years 1990-1991 was signed here today.

The program was signed on the Iraqi side by Minister of Culture and Information Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim and on the Omani side by Minister of Information Mr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas.

The two sides expressed their appreciation for this step that pushes forward the Arab information joint action towards the prospect of bilateral cooperation to serve the issues of the Arab naton.

The program includes encouraging the two sides to exchange visits and information and press delegations between information offices so as to exchange expertise and to attend the occasions concerning both brotherly countries.

The program also includes working to activate cooperation between the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) and the OMANI NEWS AGENCY to expand the exchange of news items, reports and information to cover the activities and achievements witnessed by both countries and to cover the news of both countries in the bulletins issued by the two agencies.

Moreover, the program stated on publishing the news items sent by the correspondents of the two countries in the world and to offer the possible press and technical facilities to the correspondents of the agencies in Baghdad and Muscat. [sentence as received] It also states that the two agencies receive the transmission of each other and to take care of each one's interests to serve the activities of the two organizations in press and technical aspects.

The two sides will promote the work according to the program in the fields of radio and TV and exchanging programs on the occasions of the national days of each side as well as the weekly or monthly TV and radio dispatches to review the aspects of progress and development in the two countries.

The two sides according to the program will exchange visits between the officials and will work on training radio and TV cadres and celebrate the national days and occasions in both countries.

The signing ceremony of the program was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to Oman and the directors general of broadcasting and TV, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY and information.

Jasim Returns From Oman

JN0511210389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim returned to Baghdad this evening after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 13th conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] information ministers, who ended their work in Muscat today. [passage omitted]

Hungary's Bekesi Meets Government Officials

Holds Session With Hammadi

JN0611164389 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 6 Nov 89

Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA— Mr, Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, met here today Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi.

During the meeting, economic relations and means of cementing them were reviewed.

Confers With Ramadan

JN0611192289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekeski and his delegation.

During the meeting, Bekeski conveyed to Taha Yasin Ramadan a message from Miklos Mameth, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, dealing with his country's desire to improve relations with Iraq in all fields.

Trade Minister Receives Romania's Vaidescu

JN0611195089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met this evening with Nicolae Vaidescu, Romanian minister of electrical engineering industry, and his delegation. During the meeting, which was attended by the Romanian ambassador to Baghdad, they discussed trade relations between the two countries.

The visiting minister expressed his admiration of the construction boom in Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn.

Ibrahim Receives SFRY President's Message

JN0611110689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has received a written message for President Saddam Husayn from SFRY President Janez Drnovsek. Stojan Andov, SFRY ambassador to Baghdad, conveyed the message to Ibrahim during a meeting this morning.

Labor Executive Quits Knesset Coalition

TA0611182789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Another coalition crisis in the Knesset: The Labor executive says it will stop all cooperation with its Likud colleagues, following a Likud move to proceed with legislation aimed against Deputy Minister Yosi Beilin. Even though the Likud has decided to put off presenting the bill to the Knesset, at least for now, Labor says its decision stands. Over to Knesset reporter David Ze'ev:

If there were hopes yesterday's Inner Cabinet decision would result in at least a temporary state of unity between Labor and Likud Knesset members, those hopes have now been dashed. The Labor executive, the leadership in the Knesset, said today it would cease all cooperation with the Likud. This, after the House Committee voted to move forward with legislation led by the Likud's Hayim Corfu that would give a prime minister the ability to fire a deputy minister. Currently he can only remove a minister.

The bill is clearly directed toward Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin, who has angered Prime Minister Shamir and others in Likud over statements concerning negotiations with the PLO as well as other actions Likud claims have been contrary to the interests of the government. Ironically, Deputy Minister Beilin is not opposed to the legislation. [passage omitted]

Shamir Refuses To Convene Central Committee

TA0611121489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] After yesterday's Inner Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Minister Ari'el Sharon that he objects to convening the Likud Central Committee for a political debate in the near future. An announcement to this effect was made this morning by Minister Sharon at a news conference in Tiberias. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from there:

Minister Ari'el Sharon said that the Government of Israel erred in failing to demand that the United States provide written guarantees for the political plan for which Israel voted. Minister Sharon said that the Cabinet ministers, including first and foremost those Likud ministers who voted for the plan, have been, in his words, swept into indirect negotiations with the PLO. Sharon added: We have embarked on a path from which there is almost no return.

[Begin Sharon recording] In fact, those Likud ministers who supported the plan have abandoned the traditional Likud stands. This is perhaps the central and most painful problem. They may have done so in a bid to maintain government unity, but the fact is that they have embraced the stands of the Alignment.

This whole thing should have made some people wonder. When a plan enjoys the support of the Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, and the Labor Party—in fact, all the left-wing parties, including the most extreme Israeli left-wing parties—one must ask whether the Likud members who endorsed it did not in fact abandon the Likud stands. [end recording]

Sharon further said that yesterday, the constraints ministers [Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i] again appealed to the prime minister demanding to convene the party's Central Committee. The prime minister, however, refused to do so before his trip to the United States.

Sharon does not intend to resign from the Cabinet: I will fight for my stands from within the Cabinet, he declared during a tour of Tiberias this morning. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Pay Official Visit to France 21 Nov

TA0611181489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister will make an official visit to France after his return from the United States. The visit will last from 21 until 26 November. Jerusalem sources said tonight that Mr Shamir will meet with President Mitterrand, his counterpart Michel Rocard, and with the three leading EC foreign ministers from France, Spain, and Ireland. He will also meet with French Jewish leaders.

Visit to Italy Will Follow

TA0711124489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will make a 1-day visit to Rome following his visit to Paris, which is scheduled to take place upon his return from Washington. This was learned by our correspondent Yosi Bar from sources in the Italian Government.

In Rome, Mr Shamir will meet with his counterpart, Giulio Andreotti, and probably also with Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.

Ethiopian Envoy Meets With Government Officials

Delivers Message to Shamir

TA0611113189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar and Arye Bender]

[Excerpts] The Ethiopian president's special envoy arrived in Israel last night and conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. The emissary is Kassa Kabedde, special aide to President Mengistu.

The envoy discussed with the prime minister and foreign minister the military aid Israel plans to provide Ethiopia

in return for the resumption of diplomatic relations and the possibility that thousands of Jews will immigrate to Israel.

Kabedde transmitted a personal message to the prime minister from President Mengistu. Shamir expressed satisfaction with the Ethiopian Government's decision and pointed out that the friendly ties between the two nations go back through history. [passage omitted]

Kabedde's visit indicates that the two countries are about to sign various agreements.

Holds News Conference

TA0611184689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Ethiopia hopes to use the good offices of the Jewish lobby in the United States to promote a rapprochement with Washington. This was conceded this evening by Kassa Kabedde, a senior aide to the Ethiopian ruler, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, at a news conference in Jerusalem to mark Ethiopia's decision to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Ethiopia is not coming to Israel as a beggar or a supplicant, said Kassa Kabedde, and he dismissed Israeli press reports that Addis Ababa's decision to resume relations with Jerusalem was an act of desperation due to government setbacks in the war against the Eritrean separatists or the Tigray front. However, he conceded that Ethiopia is interested in a rapprochement with the United States, and that Israel may be in a position to help.

[Kabedde] As Israel has a relation with the United States and Israel has also close and strong relations with the Jewish lobby in the United States, we see possibilities for benefiting from that.

[Katzenell] Kassa Kabedde evaded questions about possible Israel military aid to Ethiopia. He said he did not know whether Israeli military instructors were in Ethiopia or not, but he did say that Ethiopian Jews who wish to come to Israel would be allowed to do so on humanitarian grounds and in accordance with the new Ethiopian Constitution.

[Kabedde] Ethiopian Jews over this past 2 years, in big numbers, have come to Israel. Now, everybody wants to make a James Bond story out of that, you know, and we don't see why.

[Katzenell] Kabedde said the Ethiopian Government did not object to Operation Moses, the airlift 5 years ago of Ethiopian Jews through Sudan to Israel. What irritated Ethiopia was the publicity surrounding the event.

The news conference was hosted by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who said of the eight African countries which have resumed relations with Israel, Ethiopia was of particular interest.

[Netanyahu] They are all interesting, but Ethiopia is of particular interest to us because it is a very important country. It is the seat of the Organization of African Unity. There is, of course, the Jewish people in Ethiopia. There are other considerations that interest Israel, have always interested Israel in its relations with Ethiopia, including the historic context.

[Katzenell] Netanyahu said Israel is currently discussing the renewal of relations with more African countries, important countries he said, but he did not name them. [end recording]

Rabin Leaves for Canada on '2-Day Working Visit'

TA0611121289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov 89 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left last night for a 2-day working visit to Canada. Minister Rabin's trip is linked to Israeli efforts to strengthen defense relations with Canada.

During his 2-day stay, the defense minister will meet with National Defense Minister William McKnight, address the conference of Conservative synagogues in North America and other Jewish organizations, and meet with the media.

The strengthening of security ties between Israel and Canada was made possible after the Canadian Government agreed several months ago to accept the credentials of Major General Avraham Ben-Shoshan, military attache in Washington, as representing Israel in Canada as well.

Another point that could be indirectly linked to the Rabin visit is last week's announcement by the spokesman for the Canadian Energy, Mines, and Resources Ministry that Israel made an official request to Canada to permit it to buy a CANDU nuclear reactor. The announcement made it clear that Canada links the sale of the reactor to Israel changing its policy and adding its signature to the nuclear disarmament accord.

Officials Meet PRC's UN Envoy in New York

TA0611202489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Re'uven Merhav, director general of the Foreign Ministry, discussed Israel's peace initiative with the UN secretary general and met with the Chinese ambassador in New York this evening. During the meeting with the Chinese ambassador, there was a discussion of issues pertaining to bilateral relations.

Dr Me'ir Tzadoq, director of the Israeli Academy of Sciences, conferred with the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations in New York this evening to examine the

possibility of expanding bilateral scientific cooperation. They also discussed plans for a student exchange next academic year.

'Acceptable' Palestinian Delegates Expected

TA0611113889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Sources within Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office have reiterated that the Palestinian delegation with which Israel would be willing to negotiate cannot include any deportees or residents of East Jerusalem.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the Prime Minister's Bureau, told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that the Prime Minister's Office is anticipating a meeting with a Palestinian delegation that will be composed of participants who will be acceptable to Israel and will meet standards Israel has set. The Israeli delegation will have clear instructions and will leave the meeting in the event of any deviation leading to a discussion of issues that have no bearing on the elections or if Palestinian representatives not previously agreed upon appear.

PLO Must Determine Composition of Delegation

TA0611114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] East Jerusalem activist Faysal al-Husayni says the chances for the Cairo talks taking place depend on Washington's response to the assurances demanded by Israel. Reporter Mark Weiss asked Al-Husayni if he was confident, following yesterday's Inner Cabinet decision, that the Cairo talks will go ahead.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] Any step which will deny the PLO its right to be part of the peace process or will deal with the Palestinian people not as a people will leave us in a pessimistic situation.

[Weiss] Mr al-Husayni, what is the difference between talking to a delegation of PLO sympathizers from the territories and talking with the PLO?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, you can put the same question to the other side, the Israelis: What is the difference? From our side, we did not ask the Israelis to send some people who have sympathy with the Israeli Government. We asked them to send people from their own government representatives, and it is the same for us.

[Weiss] Do you expect the Palestinian delegation, if the talks indeed do go ahead, to include Palestinians from outside the territories?

[Al-Husayni] From outside and inside, and to be so clear that for us the PLO is the one who determines the partners of all the members of the delegation.

[Weiss] If the Cairo talks do go ahead, are you confident that Palestinian elections in the territories will take place next year?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, in this case, if the negotiations will start from an equal level with Israel, so we will accept the elections and there will be elections, and after the elections we can go to complete the peace process. [end recording]

Arab Unity Needed To Face U.S. 'Prevarications'

TA0211163689 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Nov 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Baker—Back to the Israeli Perceptions"]

[Text] Reports from Washington indicate that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has responded to Israel's request and has modified some of the articles of his five-point plan. Baker informed Arens by phone of the new modifications, the official version of which is expected to arrive in Israel today.

According to news agencies, Baker's modifications stipulate that Israel will take part in the proposed talks after agreeing on the formation of the Palestinian delegation for these talks. The other modification stipulates that the talks will be limited to elections and the procedure of negotiations.

Thus, it is very clear that Baker, who had tried to depict himself as someone who can present balanced and objective ideas, has hastened to conform these ideas to Israeli perceptions and make them totally subject to the whims of Israel's leaders who have been constantly calling for more modifications in a bid to empty his plan of any content.

It was natural for Israeli political circles to express their pleasure at Baker's modification of his plan. These modifications aim to keep the peace process in the region hostage to the Israeli volition that rejects peace.

From the very first moment that Baker put forward his ideas, it was clear that the U.S. Administration could not take even one step without Israeli consent. Perhaps the recent revelation that the U.S. Administration had gone back on ideas that it had presented to the Soviet Union about the formation of a Palestinian delegation to the talks and which the Soviet Union had in turn conveyed to the PLO, is the best proof of the extent of coordination and cohesion between Tel Aviv and Washington for advancing the peace process in the region.

One should stress here the necessity of drawing up a cohesive Arab stance in the face of U.S. prevarications. Such a stance will force Washington to move its positions away from Israeli perceptions and adopt an objective perception that is compatible with the international will and that calls for the convocation of an international peace conference in the Middle East as the best practical option for establishing peace in the region.

Air Force Attacks Hizballah Targets in Lebanon

TA0711114989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] This is a report we just received from our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe: This morning, Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets belonging to Hizballah. The raid was conducted in the region of Mazra'at 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, in the eastern sector of south Lebanon. All targets were hit, and all our planes returned safely to base.

Katyusha Lands in Security Zone; No Casualties

TA0711122589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] A Katyusha missile fired from north of the security zone in southern Lebanon fell in the security zone this afternoon. There were no casualties. This was reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Cypriot Ship Intercepted by Israeli Warship

NC0411130489 Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek 4 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] A small passenger boat, "Zevs Xenios," under the Cypriot flag was intercepted yesterday, following a chase during which shots were fired from an Israeli warship. The boat was escorted to the port of Haifa.

A radio signal was sent, then the "Zevs," which was heading for the Lebanese port of Sidon, was intercepted off the Cypriot coast after warning shots had been fired at it.

According to our reports the Israeli soldiers who took over the "Zevs" and led it to Haifa arrested three passengers, possibly Palestinians.

After a demarche by the Cypriot Government, the "Zevs" was freed and continued its journey to Sidon.

Detainees Linked to Fatah

TA0411171689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Today it was learned that the three terrorists who were captured on a boat sailing to Sidon and who were taken in for questioning by the Israeli Navy are members of Fatah. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Israeli Navy boats on a routine patrol west of the Lebanese coast identified a suspicious large yacht on Thursday night. The ensuing check revealed the presence of 10 crewmen of various nationalities aboard. The three who were taken in for questioning are Palestinians who are members of Fatah. The rest were sent on their way.

Gaza Physician Prevented From Visiting Cairo

TA0711064689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Security forces have prohibited a Gaza physician from traveling to Egypt on the invitation of the Foreign Ministry in Cairo. Officials in the defense establishment in Tel Aviv say Dr Ahmad al-Yazchi is suspected of carrying out hostile activities.

Egyptian officials had invited Al-Yazchi and three other prominent Gaza residents for talks in Cairo concerning the Middle East peace process.

Violence, Curfews, Strikes in Territories

IDF Kills Masked Youth

TA0211163989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] An 18-year-old youth from the village of (Bayt 'Awwa) in the Hebron area was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire this afternoon. Military sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that the youth was masked and was burning tires at the entrance to the village. Two officers who arrived at the site instructed him to halt and then fired in the air. The youth tried to hurl a bag he was clutching at them. They shot him in the feet, injuring him. He was transferred to a military clinic in an Arab vehicle, and was then evacuated to a hospital, but died on the way.

General Strike Called

TA0211190589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] It was generally quiet today, a day of a general strike declared on the occasion of 2 November, Balfour Declaration day. There were disturbances in some places in Gaza, and in Judaea and Samaria there were also some stoning incidents. [passage omitted]

Today's general strike was all-encompassing, even though it was initiated by the Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS, and not the Unified National Command of the Uprising which supports Fatah. The Palestinians regard the Balfour Declaration as the beginning of their tragedy, but as an East Jerusalem paper noted, it can also serve as a lesson. Look at how the Jews set up a strong country, called Israel, from a piece of paper called the Balfour Declaration, wrote AL-NAHAR this morning.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 2 November adds that "the Jerusalem police have detained eight more suspects in connection with the local gang that organized in Bayt Safafa. So far, 12 youths aged between 12 and 15, suspected of organizing and actively participating in disturbances, have been detained."]

Inmates Begin Hunger Strike

TA0211205789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Approximately 1,000 security prisoners incarcerated in the Qezi'ot detention facility began a hunger strike today. Army sources have reported that they do not know what prompted the strike, but our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe believes that it was declared to mark the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Woman Murdered in Nabulus

TA0311092889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] A 35-year-old woman was murdered in the Nabulus casbah this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that masked men took her out of her house, bound her, dragged her through the city streets, and then shot her at close range. The police have launched an investigation.

Last night the security forces sealed three houses in the Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza. The houses belong to men who are suspected of joining Fatah, throwing firebombs at stores and houses belonging to local residents, and planning to plant bombs at bus stops within the Green Line.

Arab Youth Killed in Nabulus

TA0311112189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] An Arab youth was killed in Nabulus this morning during a violent disturbance. Army sources reported that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol was attacked in the Nabulus casbah with boulders and stones. The unit was forced to fire. One of the soldiers fired in the air and later fired a plastic bullet at the attackers' legs.

According to reports from the scene, a youth was seen hit in the leg, while a Nabulus hospital reported that a 17-year-old youth was shot in the chest. The body was snatched away. The IDF is investigating whether there is a connection between the youth's death and the soldiers' gunfire.

Blast Injures Hebron Residents

TA0411123689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] This morning an improvised charge exploded in a Hebron residential building, probably when one of the tenants was working on it. Eight of the building's residents were wounded: two adults and six children. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that police and the security forces launched an investigation.

'Terrorist Gang' Uncovered

TA0411201489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a three-member terrorist gang in the village of Silat al-Harthiyah near Janin. They are suspected of having perpetrated three terrorist attacks, one of which led to the death of a Haifa resident.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that this morning the three recounted the three attacks they perpetrated in Haifa. In March 1985 they planted a bomb in the Talpiyyot market which failed to explode. Six months later they planted a bomb in the Turkish market; the bomb exploded and wounded a local resident who later died of his wounds. In the third attack, they detonated an explosive charge in the bus station on Hameginim Street. Several cars went up in flames, but nobody was injured.

Man Axed To Death in Gaza

TA0511072089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Ahmad Salman, 36, resident of the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza, was murdered last night. His killers pounded his head with an ax. The motives are unclear.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that, in another incident, masked individuals attacked a 36-year-old Rafah woman with knives and axes. She is hospitalized at Tel Hashomer in critical condition.

An Audi car was torched early this morning in the Zameret Habira neighborhood in Jerusalem, which lies next to the Arab village of 'Isawiyah. A vehicle that was parked nearby was slightly damaged. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the incident occurred in Nehage Hapredot Street, which lies on the outskirts of the neighborhood. The total number of vehicles set on fire in Jerusalem since the beginning of the year now stands at 160.

Troops Open Fire on Students

TA0511122889

[Editorial Report] Two papers on 5 November report on incidents occurring in the territories from 2 to 4 November.

In a report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela' on page 8, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English notes that "in Hebron, two youths were wounded on Friday night, one of them seriously, when troops opened fire at them after they tried to attack a patrol. Military sources refused to elaborate on the nature of the attack, citing security reasons. The youths, who were originally evacuated to al-Maqasid Hospital, were transferred by the security forces to Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital.

"In other clashes, Palestinians reported 10 persons injured at Surif, near Hebron. Bayt I'nan, near Ramallah, was under curfew after an Israeli motorist who blundered into the village on Thursday was assaulted, and his car torched, Palestinians said.

"The Gaza Strip was relatively calm over the weekend, official military sources reported. However, according to Gaza hospital records, five Palestinians in Jabalyah were wounded on Friday during clashes with troops, and nine more were shot and wounded yesterday, in Gaza city, Khan Yunus and al-Mughazi refugee camp.

"Israel Radio reported last night that a soldier was hit in the face by a stone in Gaza yesterday.

"The military authorities will take disciplinary action against an officer and a soldier who were responsible for last Monday's shooting and wounding of a Canadian reporter in Rafah's Shabura refugee camp, the IDF spokesman told THE JERUSALEM POST."

The report adds that "two Palestinians from Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan quarter were last week sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined 2,000 Israeli shekels for active membership in a popular committee."

Another report on the same page by David Rudge adds that "police are investigating the dissemination of leaflets in Golan Heights Druse villages over the weekend that called on residents to stage a general strike today in support of the Palestinian intifada in the territories. The leaflets were signed by The General National Committee."

In a report on page A2, Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew notes that "a homemade grenade was thrown at an army patrol on Friday night in Wadi al-Hadiyya in Hebron. Local sources report that the grenade exploded in the hands of the assailant, whose arm was amputated."

A report by 'Ezra Yanuv on page A8 of the same paper adds that "a Swedish delegation yesterday toured Jabalyah to observe the behavior of soldiers toward the population first-hand. In several locations the visit of the delegation stirred ferment and led to riots."

Masked Men Arrested

TA0511142989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] A masked man who tried to place a stone roadblock in Bethlehem's local market was shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers as they tried to arrest him. Official military sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that another masked man who was with him was caught and arrested.

Janin Man Dies of Wounds

TA0511171889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Muhammad Jamil Hazbun, an inhabitant of Janin who was wounded in a clash with Israeli soldiers 2 days ago, died this afternoon in 'Afula Hospital. Official military sources say the man was holding a knife and was shot when he did not obey calls to halt. Hazbun had been wanted for over a year in connection with several terrorist attacks. Among other things, he threw a firebomb at an army unit and attacked a local policeman as well as people suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Bayt Sahur Declared Closed

TA0511105589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has declared Bayt Sahur a closed military zone. The closure is preventing Israelis from participating in a peace prayer organized by the town residents, while preventing reporters from reporting on it. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF has blocked the path of a group of activists from various movements, including Christians, Muslims, and Jews, who then held a group prayer in the vicinity of a checkpoint near Bethlehem.

Colonel Dani Ze'evi, the commander of the district, told our correspondent that the IDF had allowed thousands to pray in the three Bayt Sahur churches, and that the prayer was conducted in exemplary order.

Bayt Sahur Protest Dispersed

TA0511184189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The army dispersed a demonstration by hundreds of people this afternoon in Bayt Sahur. Following a special prayer service, they marched on the town's main street carrying PLO flags and calling for an end to the occupation. This morning soldiers prevented Israelis and journalists from attending an interdenominational prayer service in the town.

The mufti of Jerusalem, Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, today issued a religious edict forbidding Muslims from buying any of the possessions confiscated from Bayt Sahur residents during the tax collection operation. The ruling says that anyone who buys such an item will be considered to have stolen money from a brother Muslim.

5 Nov Incidents Updated

TA0611123889

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 6 November in an unattributed report on page 2 says that "a firebomb was hurled last night at an Israeli vehicle in Jerusalem's al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. The firebomb ignited but caused neither casualties nor damage."

The report adds that "five Gaza Strip residents were wounded yesterday in disturbances on what was called a very quiet day. Arab sources said that in riots in the al-Shati' refugee camp and in Jabalyah, as well as in several Gaza neighborhoods, soldiers fired rubber and plastic bullets, slightly wounding five youngsters. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said: We do not know about any casualties resulting from gunfire."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 6 November publishes a page 8 ITIM report stating that "A Palestinian accused of receiving funds for the intifadah from Dr Sari Nusaybah was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison at the Lod military court. Fahd al-Hajj, 29, of Bi'r Zayt was given a 2-year suspended sentence. Al-Hajj, released in the 1985 prisoner exchange with the Ahmad Jibril terror group, was convicted of receiving 183,000 dinars from Nusaybah and transferring it to Fatah operatives in the territories."

ITIM also reports that three Palestinians, aged between 25 and 37 from a village near Tulkarm, were sentenced to life terms for "terrorist acts committed in 1986 and 1987 that left 17 persons injured. The three, allegedly members of the PLO, refused to recognize the authority of the military court and were removed from the courtroom when they refused to stand on the entry of the judges."

'Terror Network' Uncovered

TA0711064389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Security forces have uncovered a large terror network of members from the so-called shock committees operating in Jericho. So far, 17 suspects have been arrested. Military sources said four of the group are suspected of the brutal murder of a Jericho man believed to have aided the authorities. The homes of the four suspects were sealed this morning.

HAMAS Squad Held in Deaths

TA0711080589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist squad operated in the Gaza Strip by HAMAS, the Islamic Resistance Movement. Its members had been involved in the kidnapping and murder of Avi Sasportas and in the kidnapping of soldier Ilan Sa'adon. Three of the squad members, however, including the murderers, managed to flee Israel.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has stated that the squad commander and several members who were instrumental in the kidnapping and murder have been detained. The investigation has reinforced the belief that kidnapped soldier Ilan Sa'adon was also murdered and buried in an unknown location in Israel.

Last night, a resident of al-Safi in the Ramallah District was stabbed to death by locals. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the dead man is Hamid Mahmud 'Abdallah, 24. The Ramallah police have launched an investigation.

Update on Territories 6 Nov

TA0711084489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Two masked youths who, according to military sources, threw stones and empty bottles at soldiers, were wounded in Hebron, after being ordered to halt in accordance with the army regulation on the apprehension of suspects. Palestinian sources reported that five Hebron residents were wounded yesterday. According to them, one of the casualties, Iman 'Amar, 17, sustained severe injuries while taking a test in a school classroom. He was hospitalized at al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. A 17-year-old woman and two men, 18 and 28, were wounded in the legs. Another youth was wounded in the head by a rubber bullet.

Official military sources reported that a preliminary investigation revealed no shooting incident in a Hebron school yesterday.

A resident of Janin suspected of collaborating with the authorities was stabbed yesterday. Muhammad Dulani, 37, was stabbed in the back, head, and hand; he was transferred to al-Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus. Also in Janin, a general strike was held in protest over the death of Mufir Jamil Hizbun, who died 2 days ago in 'Afula Hospital of wounds sustained in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers last Friday. Palestinian sources reported that about 1,000 students staged a procession which was dispersed with tear gas grenades. The sources added that 30 of the procession participants were treated at a hospital following tear gas inhalation.

Reports from Nabulus stated that a 40-year-old woman was wounded in the abdomen by a rubber bullet. In the city's al-Yasmina neighborhood, the army detained 12 local residents who had been wanted by the authorities. [passage omitted]

In yesterday's riots in the Gaza Strip, four locals were wounded, according to Palestinian sources: two in Bayt Lahiyah and two in Jabalyah. The sources further reported riots in the Jabalyah and al-Shati' refugee camps, in Gaza city, and in other sites in southern Gaza Strip. In Gaza's Daraj neighborhood, the security forces closed a school in the wake of stoning incidents. Arab sources asserted that another school was closed in Rafah, where the security forces beat up the principal and detained four students. The arrest of students was followed by riots. Arab sources reported riots on Gaza's al-Wahdah Street, where rallying youths threw stones at IDF troops.

Gaza Strip attorneys said that the IDF has not allowed them to visit detainees held in the newly set up detention center in Khan Yunus, dubbed Ansar-4. According to

them, the IDF declared the area a closed military zone, barring attorneys and human rights activists from touring the place and acquainting themselves with the detainees conditions. According to Palestinian sources, about 200 Arabs are held at Ansar-4, although their identities and the charges attributed to them are impossible to ascertain.

A representative of the IDF spokesman in the Southern Command said yesterday that the IDF is investigating the allegation. His answer has not been received so far. Military sources reported yesterday that relative quiet prevailed in the Strip and that no injuries had been recorded. Official army sources further said that with the exception of local disturbances, the departure for work, commerce, and schools operated normally.

16,000 Policemen To Supervise 8 Nov Elections

JN0611104689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 89 pp 3, 21

[Report by Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Excerpt] Within the framework of concern to guarantee free and fair elections in a secure and stable atmosphere while implementing the directives of His Majesty King Husayn, the leader of the homeland, the Public Security Directorate has adopted all measures to guarantee security and freedom for citizens to cast their votes in the parliamentary elections on Wednesday. Staff Major General Fadil 'Ali Fuhayd said in a statement to AL-DUSTUR that 16,000 policemen have been mobilized to supervise security during the elections at polling stations and vote-counting centers throughout the Kingdom to guarantee fair, free, and honest elections. [passage omitted]

Intifadah, PLO Matters Divide Muslim Brothers

JN0611122489 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 4 Nov 89 p 2

[Text] Positions on the intifadah and the PLO have divided the leadership of the "Muslim brothers" in Jordan into two currents—one very extremist and the other less extremist.

The less extreme current is represented by General Controller Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, Shaykh Ibrahim Mas'ud Khuraysan, Dr 'Ali al-Hawamidah, Dr Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, Dr 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, and Yusuf al-'Azm. And the extremist current is represented by Dr Muhammad Abu-Faris, Dr Hammam Sa'id, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zanat, Musa Huntush, Shaykh Dhib Anis, and Shaykh Ibrahim al-Mashukhi.

Sources from "the Muslim brothers group" say that while the two currents agree on one negative stand toward the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah in the interest of the Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS, the extremist current backs this negative stand with more intransigence toward the stands of the PLO leadership, particularly, Palestinian President 'Arafat.

What will the voter say?

Voter Confusion Blamed on Absence of Parties

JN0611102689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 89 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" by Dr. Walid al-Sa'di: Political Parties—Conspicuous by Sheer Absence]

[Text] The still exaggerated number of candidates competing for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections and the proliferation of slogans and campaign platforms decorating these elections suggest that future elections would continue to lack coherence and organisation if political parties are not formed. As things stand now for this year's elections, voters have been confused by the utter lack of organisation that reigned supreme as a direct consequence of just too many candidates with an even greater number of banners festooning the streets of the country. The only effective and operational way then to rectify the errors of the Nov. 8 elections is to introduce a limited number of political parties along the lines that could be articulated in the projected National Pact. Needless to say, there is hardly any viable parliamentary system in the whole world without political parties that draw heavily on their own respective national experiences, norms and traditions.

Such political tools would go a long way to render political platforms more coherent by injecting discipline and responsiblity in their formulation. Moreover, the number of contesters in any given elections would also remain within the realm of reason as each political party would exercise direct control on the number of candidates who run on their own separate slates. And what is even more relevant would be the control that such parties could exercise over the slogans or political platforms that are presented to the electorates.

As things stand now, there is no way to determine the credibility of the various political platforms which different candidates have espoused. As at least some of the cotesters can be presumed to have professed flamboyant slogans for only public consumption, without the benefit of some form of guardianship that can be exercised through disciplined and organised political parties, such exaggerated claims and promises would continue unabated. In other words, had we in Jordan two political parties during this year's national elections, many positive features could have been realised: First, the number of candidates could have been reduced to reasonable proportions. Secondly, the political platforms of the various candidates could have been more coherent and realistic. Thirdly, the contents of the political platforms could have been toned down to meaningful proportions as well. So, without the control that such political parties could have performed during this year's elections there was no limit to what contesters would go to propagate their slogans. Likewise there was no limit to the number of those seeking public confidence and trust. The end result, of course, is elections lacking control, discipline and coherence.

But all is not lost as this year's parliamentary elections can still serve as a big lesson on which all future elections can draw heavily. After all, the continuing process of democratisation in Jordan is a perpetual learning process. The Kingdom cannot be expected to master the art of elections in one giant leap but rather through the trials and tribulations of many imperfect elections. If this year's elections can teach us that much more and educate us also that much more, then it is a very positive step on the path towards wiser and more viable elections in the future. Thus as I read the situation connected with this year's parliamentary elections, the biggest drawback was the absence of, let's say, two giant political parties under whose wings would lie and operate all the splinter

political parties and forces that have sought expression during this Nov. 8 elections.

Fortunately, the proposed National Pact is projected to deal with this very issue and hopefully will rectify this year's shortcomings. The elected parliamentarians in the Nov. 8 elections will of course be expected to debate this matter during the course of their deliberations on the much talked about National Pact.

Having gained or even suffered from the experiences of this year's experiment in electioneering, they should be in an appropriate condition to spell out their thoughts on the contents of the National Pact and offer their words of wisdom on the framework of future political parties. If they succeed in such a mission they would have rendered the country and their constituencies a great deal of good. If they fail, they would fail not only their electorates but also the entire country.

Writer Reviews Tribalism's Place in Elections

JN0611071089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 89 p 4

[Article by Mariam M. Shahin entitled "Rise of Democracy, Fall of Tribalism?"]

[Text] Amman—Arabic coffee is served to elders gathered in large tents to approve one of them as their "face" to the world. Their strongest, wisest and often the wealthiest man among them thus becomes their tribal leader—"Shaykh al-'Ashirah"—the traditional way tribal leaders have been chosen since time immemorial.

Although tribal tents were seen and the aroma of Arabic coffee was stronger all over Jordan for the last month, things are changing.

As Jordanians, young and old, head for the polls on Nov. 8, the paramount questions are: For whom will they vote and what single most important issue or loyalty will decide their vote? In a country known to be home to Arab tribes and their traditions, no-one knows to what degree the famous proverb "Me against my brother, my brother and I against my cousin, my cousin and I against our neighbour and my neighbour and I against the stranger," will hold true.

As 650 candidates vie for the 80 seats in the Lower House of Parliament, many people are wondering on what basis those who will actually vote from the 876,693 voters who have collected their voting cards. [sentence as published]

Although tribalism and regionalism were seen as the main attractions of some candidates, the voters don't necessarily think so.

Since tribal affiliations have been the key to solving problems, may they be social, economic, educational or religious since time began in this ancient land, what is seen as cracks in tribal strength are viewed with dismay by many traditionalists.

"The young people think they know better than we do, that they can get by without their clan by reciting ideological poetry and thus winning the minds and hearts of the strange masses," said one traditional tribal leader in Irbid Governorate referring to candidates who refused to associate themselves along tribal lines. "Well, it won't work," he asserted.

What role is tribalism playing in the elections? How much have people's politics changed in Jordanian society over the decades? These questions were posed to candidates, tribal and non-tribal, in various parts of the Kingdom.

Many candidates felt that there was a possibility that some voters may vote only for one candidate so as to strengthen the chances of "his" or "her" candidate and weaken the rest. This has apparently been suggested in many electorate districts in the Kingdom. Voters with tribal, religious or ideological affiliations have stated their intentions to adopt this rather archaic voting policy although they are aware that "this is not the way it was meant to be," as one voter told the JORDAN TIMES. Encouraged by candidates, some voters said they would vote for their relatives only or for a certain "chosen" candidate only "because I want him to have a better chance than the rest. Why should I divide the votes I have?"

"No one knows how many people will abstain from participating from the full election process in order to give their votes to the candidate of their choice, may he be traditional, fundamental, or progressive in outlook. This is one of the unknown elements in this election," says a candidate from al-Karak who withdrew his candidacy a week ago because too many people from his tribe were running.

What was once seen as a paramount factor in most parts of rural Jordan, tribal authority or traditional politics, as it is often called, is probably facing its toughest test to date.

In the north and south of Jordan, as well as the centre, almost every tribe, "of any consequence," has two or more candidates vying for votes from the same electorate. Traditionally, a clan, or "al-'Ashirah" as they are known, would come to an official or unofficial consensus about their tribal leader—the man who had all it takes to represent what may be up to 20,000 or more members of the same tribe.

According to tribal candidates in the various districts most tribal voters will vote for only one of the candidates in their tribe. However, several voters told the JORDAN TIMES that they will vote for "all four" or "all seven" of the candidates who belong to their clan. A consensus as to how tribal voting in these elections will take place therefore does not really exist, or so it seems.

In Irbid Governorate, a consensus among voters from its 58 villages has brought the fellahin or village candidate to the surface. Although the chosen nominee to parliament is almost guranteed the village votes, many villagers who have encouraged other village candidates to run with an outside side hope that a member of their clan will also reach parliament.

An outstanding exception in this year's tribal election politics seem to be the 'Ubaydats in the Bani Kinanah and al-Ramtha district. A tribe with an estimated 8,000 voting members, the 'Ubaydats held a clan meeting and decided to nominate one man to represent the tribe of 20,000-odd members. The candidate, Qasim 'Ubaydat, seems to have appealed to both the younger and older members of the clan and eventually won the support of Ahmad 'Ubaydat, who is said to have favoured another man to become the tribe's nominee. "The division of tribal votes could be a tricky business in these elections" concedes one member of al-Karak clan which claims to have 6,000 voting members. "We are one of the biggest clans, but if our 6,000 votes are split up into our 7 candidates then none of our nominees may reach parliament. Another clan with only 1,000 voting members who has only one candidate may have a better chance of getting their man into parliament because they have a consensus. All this is very sad because some of the important tribes that have always had their people represented may be losing out in these elections," he said.

The reasons for the fracture in tribal consensus are multifold. Since the last general elections in Jordan in 1967, education has become relatively widespread in the Kingdom. The "wise men" who, through their distinctive education or experience, had traditionally stood out as clan leaders are being challenged by a newer and younger breed of self-styled know-it-alls.

Rapid urbanisation and a quick increase in material wealth as well as the practical universalisation of education have left relatively few of Jordan's youth illiterate in their ABC's and "the ways of the world."

Many "younger" candidates—may they be in their forties and fifties—are thus challenging the "outmoded" ways of the traditional leaders. The argument is simple. To quote one of them: "Tribal leaders have had their chance. Look where it got them. Our rural areas have been neglected as far as educational, economic, social and cultural developmental projects are concerned. So why should they be given another chance?"

Tribal candidates and non-tribal candidates alike agree that tribal politics as such are limited to the regions outside the capital.

"In Amman, it does not really matter what tribe any candidate is from. He could be much more powerful if he happens to be an "Islamic candidate or an ideologue of some sort rather than a member of a big Jordanian tribe," says one tribal candidate from al-Karak. Another candidate, representing a large al-Salti clan, says that "in Amman, there are a lot of Palestinians who tend to be somewhat less tribal than Jordanians, who have more of a tribal tradition to begin with."

Some candidates in al-Karak Governorate estimate that 60 per cent or more of the votes will be cast according to tribal affiliations, regardless of religious or ideological tendencies.

Candidates in Irbid, however, do not foresee such an outcome in their district. "In the villages outside Irbid many people will vote for members of their tribe who live in Irbid," said a candidate. "They want to vote along tribal lines but they also want someone who is around if they need him. They are openly complaining about members of their clan who moved into big houses in Amman, drive big cars and don't bother to show up for family weddings and funerals and then have the nerve to come at election time and say "I am your man in Parliament." Unlike al-Karak candidates who feel that tribalist attitudes have not waned since they took roots centuries ago, Irbid candidates see things differently. According to one candidate with Arab-nationalist leanings, "in the 1950s tribal affiliations were not as strong as they were in the '60s, '70s, and '80s because we had parties then. People had an alternative. When you don't give people a chance to be something but an Islamic fundamentalist, a member of a tribe or a Palestine refugee, then that's all he will be. If you allow political parties then Islamic fundamentalism, regionalism and tribalism will be hit at the core and lose much of the popularity they enjoy today.

With a kaleidoscope of trends ranging from "Islamist" to "establishment," "nationalist" and "leftist," confusing the electorate as to "where they really stand" and "what they really want," some traditional tribal leaders are annoyed at what they see as "a rebellion of midgets, those little nobodies who think a fancy suit and a university certificate will make them leaders," as one traditional tribal leader put it. The "younger" candidates, however, believe that the more traditional older candidates have not lived up to their responsibilities and have not done their utmost to serve their respective communities.

"Our leaders have wanted us to serve them and given us a very superficial protection and face saving image in return; in other words nothing substantial," says a "younger" tribal candidate.

Although tribal loyalties do not seem to be disappearing in any way, a more active and concertive leadership is being demanded by voters young and old all over Jordan. "The force of the tribe and the loyalty that it demands still exist very strongly but it may be in the course of reconstruction, the people are demanding that their leaders answer to their needs and demands—this is progressive traditionalism," another young candidate concluded.

Court Rejects Apostasy Case Against Al-Faysal

JN0411083889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by Ghadir Tahir, JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Excerpts] Amman—An unprecedented case filed by fundamentalists against a woman candidate running in the Nov. 8 elections has been rejected by an Islamic court, signaling an apparent victory for liberals over ultra-conservative tendencies in the country.

The apostasy and atheism case against Tujan al-Faysal, an aspirant for the Circassian seat in the Fifth District of Amman, was ruled by Shaykh Mahmud al-Shanqiti as beyond the jurisdiction of his Islamic Sharia court, according to informed sources. No official confirmation was available.

The source said the judge, citing constitutional and Sharia court procedures, had dismissed the case in the absence of the two parties involved.

"I have not been officially notified of the decision," said Al-Faysal, when reached by telephone. "However, it was a foregone conclusion since it was clear that they (the plaintiffs) had no case against me."

Mundhir Hammu, Al-Faysal's lawyer, said he was also not officially notified of any ruling in the case and that he would attend court on Nov. 9, the date set by the judge to rule whether the court was competent to hear the case, the first of its kind in Jordan.

The two plaintiffs, one an assistant mufti in the Armed Forces, citing "public right," wanted the Sharia court in Amman to declare Al-Faysal incompetent, dissolve her marriage and give anyone immunity who sheds her blood. [passage omitted]

Al-Faysal, well versed in the Koran, said she believes that Islam gives equal right to both men and women.

She said Friday that she was approached with an offer that the case against her could be dropped if she apologised for the AL-RA'Y article, which appeared under the title "They curse us and we elect them," and if she promised to not to press countercharges against the plaintiffs.

"I refused," she said. "If I had agreed to (such a deal), it would have deprived many others like me of their rights."

King Husayn Congratulates Lebanon's Mu'awwad

JN0611170089 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 6 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad on the vote of confidence given him by deputies of the Lebanese people and his election to the Presidency.

Following is the text of the cable:

On my behalf and in the name of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, I take pleasure in extending my warmest congratulations on the vote of confidence you have won from the sisterly Lebanese people's deputies who elected you as president. I pray to God this step will spell the end of an era of drift and darkness, and usher in a new era of hope in your sisterly country. We look forward to the introduction of successive political steps to help the Lebanese people regain their stability, harmony, freedom, and independence, and full sovereignty over the whole of their country's territory. We hope these steps will help Lebanon recover its health and vigor so it may restore and reconstruct itself in the interest of inter-communal interaction in a spirit of amity and brotherhood. We hope it can rebuild its relations with its Arab brothers and countries around the world on foundations of understanding, cooperation, and generosity.

I pray that God guides your steps and makes a success of your endeavor to serve Lebanon and lead its sisterly Arab people in rebuilding its strength and national unity and re-establishing its independence and stability. May God safeguard you, and may God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Paper Praises Lebanese Deputies, Election

JN0611092289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Nov 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: Lebanon... The Best Performance for Constitutional Achievement]

[Text] Finally, the deputies of Lebanon, supported by the higher Arab tripartite committee, succeeded in endorsing a new national document, electing a president for the republic, and electing a speaker for the Chamber of Deputies. Thus, President Rene Mu'awwad, who took over after 13 years of presidential vacancy, is confronted with responsibilities that cannot be easily defined. We hope that the new president, being an experienced parliamentarian since the fifties and holding a splendid record in serving Lebanon and Arabism, will succeed to form a government for all Lebanese and declare Lebanese sovereignty over the entire Lebanese soil.

As we said in the editorial of the first edition, the deputies of Lebanon, who came from Paris or waited 2 days in al-Qulay'at, deserve more than one medal and more than merely having their names recorded in Lebanon's annals. We can indeed call them the defenders and saviours of the new Lebanon—saviours who delivered it from destruction, bloodshed, and devastation after the failure of the entire world to save what is left in the Lebanese arena.

Of course, our aim here is not to advise anyone. However, we hope that the Lebanese presidency will cooperate with the higher tripartite committee to take the basic steps to renovate and unite the legislative authority in Lebanon. This will be a prelude to purging the Lebanese ranks of armed groups so that all of them can be absorbed into the melting pot of a single Lebanese army, which will defend Lebanon's existence and sovereignty as well as the welfare, existence, and destiny of the Lebanese people.

Jordan, which has exerted utmost efforts to save Lebanon since the beginning of its ordeal, is very pleased with the wonderful results achieved in the meetings of the deputies of Lebanon in Saudi Arabia and on the Lebanese territories. Jordan and its Arab nation hope that Lebanon, under its legitimate authorities, will

restore full sovereignty on its national soil, unite the ranks of its people, and liberate the south from the Zionist occupation.

King Cables Gorbachev on Revolution Anniversary

JN0611161289 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 6 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to His Excellency President Gorbachev, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman and CPSU general secretary, congratulating him on the anniversary of the October Revolution. The text of the cable is as follows:

On this anniversary of the October Revolution, I take pleasure in extending to your excellency on behalf of myself and the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan our warmest congratulations.

I also take this opportunity to voice to your excellency our extreme appreciation of the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries and wish them further improvement in the interests of our friendly peoples as well as the security, peace, and stability of all peoples. Please accept my best greetings and our wishes for your continued personal good health and for the affluence and prosperity of your friendly people.

Detainees in Petra Bank Case Released on Bail

JN0411085089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 89 p 6

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Excerpt] Amman—The number of people detained in connection with the Petra Bank debacle has dwindled with the release on bail Thursday of nine people, informed sources said Friday. However, there was no indication whether the authorities were preparing to formally press charges against any of the detained and start trials of the case affecting Jordan's third largest bank.

Information available to the JORDAN TIMES indicated Friday that a total of 27 arrests were made in the course of last week in what was seen by banking circles as a reinvigorated move to get to the bottom of the intricacies and details of the Petra Bank affair, which, some believe, continue to elude its new management, which took over the bank in preparation for its merger with the Jordan Gulf Bank in line with an order by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in August this year.

Some of those arrested last week were relesed after a few hours of questioning. Many of those rumoured "held" by the authorities answered telephone calls to their homes, indignantly denying they were "major suspects" in the case. It was not known Friday how many remained under detention, but an informed source said: "If there are any, they will not remain in custody for long."

Another source said 'Ali al-Sarraf, former chief dealer of Petra Bank who was the first believed detainee in the case when it broke in August but freed after 28 days and rearrested last week, was among those released Thursday.

Company lifted

In the meantime, the management committee of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank has removed one company from a list of 37 firms whose assets were frozen pending final results of investigations into the two banks' affairs.

A statement issued by the committee on Thursday said Musa Ghuzlani and Company—a firm engaged in construction activities—was removed from the list. The statement said the company "proved proper and timely performance on its projects, enjoys superb professional reputation and conducts its projects with high efficiency." [passage omitted]

Envoy Says President To Win Foreign Support

NC0411163989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting Foreign Ministry secretary general, expects that after his election the new president will win full recognition by all Arab and foreign countries. He will be able to act quickly on the Arab and international levels to get Lebanon out of its ordeal in view of the complete and unblemished legitimacy which he will embody. He quoted ambassadors with whom he recently met as saying that the presidential elections are the key to Lebanon's future and the elected president is the symbol of Lebanon's unity.

Moroccan King Shows Support

NC0611091989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Moroccan King Hassan II has said the election of Rene Mu'awwad to the Lebanese Presidency constitutes a fundamental step toward the settlement of the Lebanese issue.

In a congratulatory cable to President Mu'awwad, the king added: Your election places Lebanese legitimacy on the road to a settlement, fills the vacuum, and marks the beginning of a new era for Lebanese national unity, which we hope will achieve security in Lebanon.

Mu'awwad, Deputies To Meet Patriarch Sfayr

NC0611105389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr arrived at the Patriarchate summmer quarters in al-Diman this morning. President-elect Rene Mu'awwad, accompanied by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and a number of deputies, is scheduled to head for al-Diman to meet with Patriarch Sfayr.

President-elect Mu'awwad was in touch with Sfayr and met with Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi this morning.

Salim al-Huss is expected to meet with President-elect Mu'awwad in Ihdin today to submit the resignation of his government officially. It has been reported that al-Huss earlier visited Damascus and met with several Syrian officials. Mu'awwad will meet with Speaker al-Husayni and the deputies currently in the north as part of his consultations on the formation of a government.

Receives Ibrahimi

NC0611110689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] President Mu'awwad received Arab tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi this morning.

Following the meeting, Ibrahimi said: We have come to his excellency the president to renew the comprehensive Arab support, especially the Arab higher tripartite committee's commitment to continue its efforts to help Lebanon and to offer whatever assistance it can to the resumption of Lebanon's march to end its crisis and ordeal.

Ibrahimi added: I am not able to express my pleasure and satisfaction with our arrival at this stage. At this stage, Lebanon has a president and will soon have a unified government. This is a step toward national reconciliation. We reiterate our hope that the national reconciliation will be comprehensive, excluding no one.

Replying to a question, Ibrahimi said: The committee is committed to yesterday's statement on the resumption of its task in Lebanon.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and a number of Lebanese leaders have contacted President-elect Rene Mu'awwad to congratulate him.

Meets Al-Huss, Accepts Resignation

NC0611184289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad has started consultations to form a new government after Dr Salim al-Huss officially submitted his resignation during his meeting with Mu'awwad in Ihdin today.

Mu'awwad on Consultations To Form Government

NC0611184189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] President of the Republic Rene Mu'awwad was the guest of honor at a luncheon given in his honor by former President Sulayman Franjiyah at the latter's palace in Zgharta. Before leaving the palace, the president told correspondents: Consultations to form a new government will be held as soon as possible and wherever we are.

Press reports expect President Mu'awwad to travel to West Beirut tomorrow to hold consultations on forming his government.

Junblatt 'Demands' Consultations

NC0611223589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2215 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has demanded new consultations to form the government. A PSP official source has demanded that the national forces be well represented in the new government.

Junblatt criticized Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi for announcing that the new government will be formed soon, saying that Ibrahimi is interfering in our domestic affairs.

President Makes Statement on Syrian Ties

JN0711072089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad has affirmed that ties with Syria have, from a historical perspective, always been based on particular and clear-cut foundations dictated by numerous facts and circumstances.

President Mu'awwad added: The distinctive feature about these ties is that they have scientific, objective, historical, and geographic foundations. Besides, these ties are governed by common borders, ties of kinship, and common struggle against the French colonial rule. Moreover, Lebanon and Syria constitute one people despite the fact that they are two countries. They belong to the Arab nation which has been divided into various states by colonial powers.

Concluding his statement to AL-THAWRAH, President Mu'awwad said: We will work to develop the relationship [with Syria] to the level dictated by the inescapable realities and facts which cannot be denied by anybody.

Phalangist Party Congratulates New President

NC0611165889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The political bureau, consultative council, and central council of the Phalangist Party held a meeting under deputy leader Munir al-Haj this afternoon.

Following the meeting, the Phalangist Party issued a statement in which it congratulated President Rene Mu'awwad and called on all Lebanese to consider his election as a new stage for uniting around the new president to achieve total national salvation, build the march of peace and the state institutions, and restore full sovereignty throughout all Lebanese territory.

The Phalangist Party expressed its pride in the democratic battle waged by its leader, George Sa'adah. It thanked the people, as well as the deputies who gave him their confidence, including those who could not attend the election session.

The Phalangist Party called for unity of ranks and urged everyone to deal with outstanding problems democratically. It also called for respect for freedom, human rights, and the dignity of all.

From this standpoint, the Phalangist Party strongly denounced the malicious attack on Patriarch Sfayr and the patriarchal seat in Bkirki, which represents spiritual and national ideals respected by the Lebanese and the world. The party called on the authorities to expose and punish the perpetrators as quickly as possible because this attack shook the conscience of the nation. The party called on the citizens to comprehend the gravity of this incident and its dimensions. It drew attention to the danger posed by such incidents to morals and liberties. It warned against the overstepping of some freedoms, like the freedom to demonstrate and strike. It also warned against attempts to strike at the freedom of others to express their views and stands. The party believes that a homeland is built on freedom and for the sake of freedom.

The Phalangist Party called on everyone to benefit from the new situation and the current national and historic opportunity. The march of peace can accommodate everyone; in fact it needs everyone so that fateful dangers can be avoided and the Republic can be saved.

The Phalangist Party pledges to the Lebanese people that it will shoulder its historic responsibility with reason and courage, alongside its allies and friends, because Lebanon's destiny hangs in the balance. Long live Lebanon.

Al-Sana'i' Palace To Be President's Headquarters

NC0611185389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Work is being carried out at the al-Sana'i' Palace in West Beirut to serve as the headquarters for President Rene Mu'awwad and the departments attached to him.

Abu-al-Lama' on U.S. Statement on Elections

NC0611070289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lama' has commented on the U.S. State Department statement welcoming the results of the elections which were held in al-Qulay'at. He said that the United States always supports incorrect stands and opposes the will of nations who demand liberty. Abu-al-Lama' added: Instead of making a call to the Lebanese people who are defending their sovereignty, we had hoped that such a call would be made to Syria and Israel in order to attain Lebanese sovereignty.

Demonstrators Attack Maronite Patriarchate Office

NC0611055889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] AFP has reported that some 100 people, in about 30 vehicles, demonstrated by burning rubber tires around the patriarchate seat. They forced their way into the patriarchate and set fire to a number of offices. The patriarchate has confirmed the attack but declined to give any details or comment.

AFP and REUTER have reported that Patriarch Sfayr was insulted personally.

Patriarchate Issues Statement

NC0611081089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Statement by the Maronite Patriarchate Secretariat on assault on Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, in Bkirki on 6 November—announcer read]

[Text] On Sunday night, 5 November, a huge demonstration, largely composed of young people, entered the headquarters of the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki, forced its way into reception halls, smashed their contents, desecrated the sanctity of the place, tore to pieces a photograph of the patriarch and hung in its place a photograph of General Michel 'Awn, and insulted his beatitude in person.

Realizing that the security authorities could not protect him against such blatant assaults, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr has decided to move to his headquarters in al-Diman and to remain there until security is restored to the area of the patriarchate's winter headquarters.

His beatitude prays to God to protect Lebanon and the Lebanese people and to restore serenity and ties of love and peace among the Lebanese.

Further on Attack

NC0611091589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] AFP has cited sources as saying at dawn today that some 100 demonstrators, riding in 30 cars, had broken into the Patriarchate and insulted Patriarch Sfayr. They set fire to a number of offices and forced Patriarch Sfayr to kiss General 'Awn's picture.

In the meantime, tires are being burned and traffic is being diverted on some of the eastern area roads and highways, in continuation of yesterday's incidents.

A demonstration has been announced outside the Patriarchate in Bkirki at 1100 today.

'Awn Reviews Incident

NC0611102489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has met with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam', National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un, and Maronite League leader Shakir Abu-Sulayman at B'abda Palace.

Following the meeting, Abu-Sulayman said: We met today to review developments in the Lebanese arena. In particular, we reviewed the incidents which occurred last evening in the seat of the Maronite patriarchate and the infringement on the freedom of that deep-rooted institution.

He added: While we strongly denounce such acts, we believe that those behind them were a bunch of invaders of the cause that we are defending. We mean the cause which hundreds of thousands of citizens set out to defend. It is the cause of values and of Lebanon's dignity, freedom, and sovereignty. Such acts aim to distort our movement.

Abu-Sulayman continued: Gen 'Awn was the first to denounce this incident that reflects negatively on the movement he is leading. He informed me that this morning he dispatched an airborne unit to the seat of the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki to defend the seat against this despicable attack and protect the institutions and individuals against any attack that would mar our movement and what it stands for.

Patriarch 'Forced' To Flee

NC0611102589 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 6 (AFP)—Supporters of Christian military leader Michel 'Awn, outraged over the election of a Lebanese president, roughed up and humiliated the country's Maronite patriarch and forced him to flee to Syrian-controlled territory, church sources said Monday. An anonymous telephone caller, claiming to represent the Christian Solidarity Front, later threatened to burn down the Maronite patriarchate at noon Monday and to attack French and U.S. interests in Lebanon.

"Christian wrath will ... not spare French interests, notably the embassy, as well as those of the Unied States in Lebanon," the caller said in a message to the offices here of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Both France and the United States have hailed Sunday's election by the Lebanese parliament of Rene Mu'awwad, a 64-year-old Maronite Christian known to favor a leading Syrian role in Lebanon. The vote was immediately dismissed as "anti-constitutional" by General 'Awn.

The caller Monday said the Christian Solidarity Front was behind the overnight assault on the patriarchate, located in Bkirki just north of here, and said the group would administer the same treatment to Christian deputies who voted for the new president if they returned to Christian-held territory. He said their property was to be "confiscated in the next few hours and distributed to impoverished Christians."

General 'Awn's partisans were also planning a general strike Monday to protest the election.

Besides rejecting the presidential vote, the general reiterated his opposition to an Arab peace plan for Lebanon, which the deputies ratified Sunday during a special session at a military airbase in Syrian controlled north Lebanon.

About 100 of Gen. 'Awn's supporters, angered by Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr's support for the Arab plan and the election, stormed his offices at Bkirki, setting fire to several rooms in the patriarchate. They

grabbed the patriarch and forced him to kiss a picture of Gen. 'Awn, witnesses said. Monsignor Sfayr later fled the Bkirki patriarchate for his summer home in Syrian-controlled Al-Diman, northern Lebanon, a statement issued by his office said. It was the first time the patriarch had been forced to take such a move in 14 years of political and military strife in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Internal Security Statement

NC0611110589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The General Directorate of the internal security forces announced in a statement today that it had taken all the necessary security measures to guarantee Patriarch Sfayr's move to al-Diman. It pointed out that the destruction of some offices in the patriarchate building yesterday was due not to negligence on the part of the security forces but to the influx of crowds into the confined space of the offices.

President Denounces Attack

NC0611133989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] AFP said in a dispatch this morning that an unidentified caller had phoned and claimed to belong to the Christian Solidarity Front. He threatened to assassinate the president if he visits the eastern area.

Meanwhile, President Rene Mu'awwad has paid a quick visit to al-Diman and met with Patriarch Sfayr at his headquarters. He denounced the flagrant attack against him and the patriarchate. The president then returned to his home in Ihdin to continue receiving congratulations from delegations, politicians, diplomats, and figureheads.

'Awn on Treatment of Patriarch

LD0611214489 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Things are not going well in Lebanon following the election yesterday of Rene Mu'awwad, a moderate Maronite Christian, to the Presidency of the Republic. He will have great difficulty in implementing the reconciliation policy, of which he is a fervent supporter, because of the fierce opposition of General 'Awn. The Maronite patriarch, one of the highest Christian religious authorities in Lebanon, manhandled last night by the supporters of Gen 'Awn, has even decided to take refuge in the zone held by the Syrians. Too bad for him, is the view of Gen 'Awn, who considers that the reaction of his friends is perfectly justified, as he confirmed a short while ago to Catherine Laurence:

[Begin recording] ['Awn] There was a spontaneous reaction from the crowd. They went there to see him; he refused to talk with them; in the end there was a surge of feeling. After this demonstration they packed in there, and in the end there was some damage in the living rooms. He was very upset by that and he left to go to [word indistinct], but he was not hurt personally.

[Laurence] Is it true that some of your supporters wanted to humiliate him by making him kiss your photograph?

['Awn] I don't know what they did at that time. I don't have any details, but you know people in mid-revolt may do anything. But it is for him not to go against the traditions of the Patriarchate. You know, a patriarch in Lebanon, a Maronite patriarch, ought to guide his people. It is a clash between him and the people.

[Laurence] Did you force him to flee?

['Awn] Excuse me, madame, don't put questions to me in that way, asking me if I forced him to flee. He chose his exile. He was escorted and protected, and he was not harmed. [end recording]

More on 'Awn's Comments

NC0611162089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has denounced every encroachment or attack on His Beautitude Patriarch Sfayr.

Answering a question from the London newspaper THE TIMES on the events that took place in Bkirki yesterday, Gen 'Awn said that Bishop Abu-Jawdah contacted him last night and told him that throngs of tumultuous demonstrators entered the hall of the Patriarchate seat. Bishop Abu-Jawdah proposed that security forces be sent to deal with the situation. Gen 'Awn said that he asked the bishop to ask the patriarch to address the demonstrators and calm them down because confronting the throngs with soldiers and guns would have serious consequences.

Gen 'Awn went on to say: I urge the demonstrators to exercise self-restraint and avoid carrying out any acts that could tarnish their national desire to express their rejection of what is being imposed on them and their homeland and their rejection of anything bound to harm their sacred cause. I have instructed the security forces to intensify their escort of the demonstrations to prevent any negative acts and prevent intriguers from fomenting chaos and exploiting the peaceful occasion to create confusion and sabotage.

Lebanese Forces Denounce Attack

NC0611160689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces made the following statement this afternoon: The attack that took place on the Patriarchate seat and the patriarch himself on the night of 5-6 November is denounced. Such an attack cannot be justified nor condoned for any reason, especially since Bkirki is a national, Christian, and historic symbol around which all meet.

The Lebanese Forces denounce this painful act and pledge to all that they will spare no effort to work with reason and wisdom to restore unity among Christians and their leaders in particular and among the Lebanese in general.

Leaflets Denounce 'Awn 'Gangs'

NC0611173389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The East Beirut is currently the scene of extreme chaos and anarchy due to the lack of security. According to our reports, leaflets were distributed in various quarters in the eastern areas today denouncing the 'Awn gangs who humiliated Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr and his spiritual values. The leaflets called for a general strike in the eastern areas to condemn the attack on the patriarch. The leaflets reiterate support for the patriarch's stands on the presidential elections and the unity of Lebanon.

Sfayr Says Rule of Military 'Dangerous'

NC0711075589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Partriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr hopes that the country will be united after the election of the president. He emphasized his support for President-elect Mu'awwad. He warned against reverting to the language of the gun because the gun becomes heavy if used irrationally.

While noting the vast international support for Lebanon's unity and the need to preserve it, Patriach Sfayr said: The agreement that has been reached may not be complete but we cannot achieve everything we want all at once. He emphasized that the rule of the military is dangerous and called for preserving democracy, freedom of expression, and the democratic parliamentary system in Lebanon.

National Bloc Leader on Chamber Dissolution

JN0411192889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Raymond Iddih, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' member and National Bloc leader living in self-imposed exile in Paris, by George Qurdahi on 4 November—recorded]

[Text] [Qurdahi] You know that General 'Awn dissolved the Chamber of Deputies today. How do you describe this decision? Is it constitutional?

[Iddih] First of all, I am against dissolving the Chamber of Deputies in principle. Secondly, General 'Awn's decision to dissolve the Chamber is legitimate because it is a signed official decree. Therefore, the Chamber is dissolved and the deputies, including myself, are now ordinary citizens.

[Qurdahi] Suppose the deputies ignored the decree and elected within a few days a president of the Republic somewhere in Lebanon, as they are attempting now. What would the result be in your opinion?

[Iddih] Constitutionally, the chamber should not have the right to meet as a chamber since it is dissolved. However, the deputies may consider the dissolution of their chamber null and void, given their contention that 'Awn is not a legitimate president and that his government is not a legitimate government—and I am not of this opinion because 'Awn and his government were appointed by a presidential decree. If despite all this they elect a president, it is feared that the world powers would recognize the elected president.

[Qurdahi] In this case, what do you expect the next phase to be?

[Iddih] There are two possibilities. If a new president is elected, he will be given 2 or 3 days to form a government. When this is done, a decree will be issued, canceling the decree according to which 'Awn was appointed. Then there will be many possiblities, or, rather, two: either they keep 'Awn as Army commander or dismiss him. Thus the mandate of 'Awn's government will end. However, 'Awn may reject this move, taking the stand that since he is supported by the majority of the Christians, especially in East Beirut, he will continue and may embark on a certain move which I cannot predict. Perhaps he will undertake a resistance movement in the full sense of the word. Now, if world powers recognized the constitutionality of electing the new president, they may undertake measures through the UN Security Council or other avenues. However, the atmosphere is ominous in the full sense of this word.

[Qurdahi] What is the second thing that you fear, Mr Iddih?

[Iddih] The decree fixes 7 December as a date for the elections. If Israel continues to occupy southern Lebanon and the Syrian Army continues to occupy two-thirds of the country, then it will be impossible to hold free elections. The country is occupied by two foreign armies. Therefore, if 'Awn remains head of the government, he will postpone the election. Accordingly, 'Awn will remain without a Chamber of Deputies.

[Qurdahi] Then the Lebanese issue will continue to suffer one postponement after another?

[Iddih] Yes.

[Qurdahi] How do you feel today? Do you expect the deputies to elect a new president despite the decree dissolving their chamber?

[Iddih] I understand that Speaker Husayn al-Husayni is in Paris and that the vast majority of the Lebanese deputies here will rally around him. We do not know if the election will be effected in Beirut or outside Beirut—some say in al-Diman in the north. The election venue has so far not been fixed. If a venue is fixed, then the deputies will still be considering themselves as deputies. Then they will elect a new president.

[Qurdahi] You are a candidate. If they elect you as president, will you regard their decision as legitimate?

[Iddih] No.

Sa'adah Calls 'Awn Decision 'Unconstitutional'

NC0511090089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] There is no information as yet on the Lebanese deputies' departure from Paris for Lebanon to hold an electoral session before 7 November.

Meanwhile, AFP cited Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah last night as noting that the decision by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam to head for the French capital preceded the resolution to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies.

Sa'adah pointed out that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn's decision dissolving the Chamber of Deputies is unconstitutional and observed that the Gen 'Awn government's task is to prepare for presidential elections.

He said the decree dissolving the Chamber of Deputies is inapplicable. He asked: How can Gen 'Awn reject the holding of presidential elections in the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon and suggest at the same time holding a general election of the Chamber of Deputies in a country occupied by the Syrians, Israelis, Palestinians, and many others?

NLP Deputy Dismissed for Attending Election

NC0511165489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] As part of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn's consultations, he met with a Lebanese Front delegation which included Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja, National Liberal Party [NLP] leader Eng Dany Sham'un, Maronite League President Lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman, and al-Tanzim Party leader Lawyer George 'Udwan. Answering reporters' questions after the meeting, Dr Ja'ja said: Matters are dealt with in due course.

NLP leader Dany Sham'un said that the NLP deputy leader who attended the elections no longer holds this post because he did not listen to requests and violated the party's principles. Eng Sham'un noted: Lebanon's sovereignty springs from here. [passage omitted]

'Awn Urges 'Civilized' Reaction to Elections

NC0611075289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn yesterday evening asked all the citizens who showed up to express their resentment and rejection of what took place at al-Qulay'at Airfield yesterday to react in a civilized and moral manner. He urged them not to attack individuals and property and not to harm public safety.

Gen 'Awn warned the citizens of infiltration attempts by suspect elements who try to distort the citizens' sincere and spontaneous expression.

A statement issued last night said that while issuing his appeal, the prime minister stressed that all citizens are urged to express their stand in a civilized, moral, and alert way and to avoid any behavior that could be used wrongly.

'Awn Interview Concerns 'Former' Deputies

LD0411142189 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] General Michel 'Awn was interviewed in Beirut this morning by RFI journalist Dominique Roque. He was eager to address those he considers already to be former deputies.

[Begin recording] ['Awn] I am addressing a message to former deputies, who are now in France, not to continue their actions against free territories, and to abstain from this bad experience and to stay where they are. All that needs to be done is to reintegrate the free Lebanon and be among one's own people.

[Roque] Gen 'Awn, what would you do if a president were to be elected, and recognized internationally?

['Awn] I don't think that such a crime could be committed as to go against the will of the population by imposing a Syrian official as president. [Word indistinct] let them rule in their own country and not in ours. [end recording]

Eastern Area Deputies To Return to Paris

NC0711074889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah and a number of Maronite deputies remained in the north yesterday. Sources close to Sa'adah said that he will decide today if he will stay in the north as guest of former President Sulayman Franjiyah until circumstances allow him to return to the eastern area.

Informed sources said that the remaining eastern area deputies will fly from al-Qulay'at to Larnaca on Middle East Airlines this afternoon. They will then return to Paris, pending the settlement of the situation in the eastern area.

Bureau Calls for General Strike for 4 Nov

NC0411071289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The Central Bureau of National Coordination has called for a general strike as of this morning in order to overthrow the al-Ta'if agreement.

Calls 6 Nov General Strike

NC0511205889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] As soon as the results of the parliamentary sessions were announced today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn held a news conference in which he announced his rejection of the results.

Isolated demonstrations in cars were staged in some East Beirut streets in support of Gen 'Awn.

The national coordination central bureau has called for a general strike and demonstrations Monday and for a gathering in front of the patriarchate in Bkirki at 1030 to express rejection of the election.

Strike in Eastern Area Reported

NC0711111289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] There was a general strike in the eastern area today as a result of the pressures being exerted by General Michel 'Awn and his supporters. Schools, departments, and shops were closed, except for some stores which lifted their shutters briefly to enable the inhabitants to purchase supplies quickly after an unexpectedly long strike, AFP reported. AFP also noted that gunmen from Samir Ja'ja's forces and policemen have been guarding the approaches to the Voice of Lebanon radio.

Streets in some eastern areas were blocked with burning tires today. At 0930, 'Awn's supporters cut the main road at the al-Salumi circle and burned tires in the area as far as al-Hayik and al-Mukallis . Traffic there was resumed at noon.

Demonstrations Take Place in East Beirut

NC0411104789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Demonstrations have been staged in some of the capital's sreets. The demonstrators marched toward B'abda Palace in support of General 'Awn's stand. Some demonstrators burned automobile tires in the streets.

'Awn Addresses Demonstrators

NC0411114989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] A huge demonstration in support of General Michel 'Awn's policy proceeded to the Presidential Palace in B'abda today.

Addressing the demonstrators, who carried placards denouncing the al-Ta'if accord, General 'Awn said: Oh Lebanese people, I appealed to you, and you responded to the call. You are the proprietors of the decision and others will not represent you after today.

We sent them [the deputies] to al-Ta'if and gave them a chance to establish peace; they came back with a document of surrender. Today and under the auspices of Syrian occupation at al-Qulay'at Airport they are trying to impose an agent president on us.

Your voice will be heard throughout the world. As of today we will not accept any advice from any quarter unless it contains freedom, sovereignty, and free presence which we enjoy through a system based on these principles as people in free societies enjoy.

We say to those who are addressing appeals, advice, and criticisms that we do not want to save our biological life, but we want to be a free people in a free homeland enjoying full national sovereignty, not a homeland appended to a Syrian district or anything else.

No power in the world can stifle our willpower. Those who failed to send a ton of fuel to our shores cannot defend democracy. You are today the first defenders of freedom and democracy in the world and are the high example which the United States and Europe must emulate.

Demonstrators Support 'Awn

NC0511175089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Demonstrations were staged in the streets of the eastern area this evening. The demonstrators shouted slogans supporting General 'Awn and rejecting the elections and their results.

Bishop Addresses Demonstrators in Bkirki

NC0611141189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Several demonstrations moved to Bkirki [Maronite Patriarchate seat] today. The most prominent demonstration was staged before noon today and included thousands of people.

The patriarchate's vicar, Bishop Roland Abu-Jawdah, addressed the demonstrators and said: [Begin recording] We welcome you all to Bkirki, your home, the home of all people and the home of the general. [applause] [Words indistinct] have you forgotten that the general is general and the patriarch is patriarch? [applause] We all appreciate the valuable services General 'Awn has rendered the Lebanese cause. He moved this cause to a lofty standing locally, regionally, and internationally.

We all demand Lebanon's full sovereignty over all Lebanese territories. We all appreciate your stand as people willing to sacrifice their blood and life for the sake of rescuing Lebanon. These people must not and will not die. [applause]. [end recording]

*** Text of National Accord Document Published**

90OL0077A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 89 p 3

[Report: "Full Text of Accord Document Approved by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies"; all numbering and lettering as published]

[Text] Al-Ta'if—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the national accord document approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in al-Ta'if yesterday. Following is the text of the document:

First, General Principles and Reforms:

I. General Principles:

A. Lebanon is a sovereign, free, and independent country and a final homeland for all its citizens.

B. Lebanon is Arab in belonging and identity. It is an active and founding member of the Arab League and is committed to the league's charters. It is an active and founding member of the United Nations Organization and is committed to its charters. Lebanon is a member of the nonaligned movement. The State of Lebanon shall embody these principles in all areas and spheres, without exception.

C. Lebanon is a democratic parliamentary republic founded on respect for public liberties, especially the freedom of expression and belief, on social justice, and on equality in rights and duties among all citizens, without discrimination or preference.

D. The people are the source of authority. They are sovereign and they shall exercise their sovereignty through the constitutional institutions.

E. The economic system is a free system that guarantees individual initiative and private ownership.

E. Culturally, socially, and economically-balanced development is a mainstay of the state's unity and of the system's stability.

F. Efforts to achieve comprehensive social justice through fiscal, economic, and social reform.

G. Lebanon's soil is united and it belongs to all the Lebanese. Every Lebanese is entitled to live in and enjoy any part of the country under the supremacy of the law. The people may not be categorized on the basis of any affiliation whatsoever and there shall be no fragmentation, no partition, and no repatriation [of Palestinians in Lebanon].

H. No authority violating the common coexistence charter shall be legitimate.

II. Political Reforms:

A. Chamber of Deputies: The Chamber of Deputies is the legislative authority which exercises full control over government policy and activities.

1. The chamber spokesman and his deputy shall be elected for the duration of the chamber's term.

2. In the first session, 2 years after it elects its speaker and deputy speaker, the chamber may vote only once to withdraw confidence from its speaker or deputy speaker with a ⅔ majority of its members and in accordance with a petition submitted by at least 10 deputies. In case confidence is withdrawn, the chamber shall convene immediately to fill the vacant post.

3. No urgent bill presented by the cabinet to the Chamber of Deputies may be issued unless it is included in the agenda of a public session and read in such a session, and unless the grace period stipulated by the constitution passes without a resolution on such a bill, with the approval of the cabinet.

4. The electoral district shall be the governorate.

5. Until the Chamber of Deputies passes an election law free of sectarian restriction, the parliamentary seats shall be divided according to the following bases:

a. Equally between Christians and Muslims.

b. Proportionately between the denominations of each sect.

c. Proportionately between the districts.

6. The number of members of the Chamber of Deputies shall be increased to 108, shared equally by Christians and Muslims. As for the districts created on the basis of this document and the districts whose seats became vacant prior to the proclamation of this document, their seats shall be filled only once on an emergency basis through appointment by the national accord government that is planned to be formed.

7. With the election of the first Chamber of Deputies on a national, not sectarian, basis, a senate shall be formed and all the spiritual families shall be represented in it. The senate powers shall be confined to crucial issues.

B. President of Republic: The president of the republic is the head of state and the symbol of the country's unity. He shall contribute to enhancing the constitution and to preserving Lebanon's independence, unity, and territorial integrity in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. He is the supreme commander of the armed forces which are subject to the power of the cabinet. The president shall exercise the following powers:

1. Head the cabinet [meeting] whenever he wishes, but without voting.

2. Head the Supreme Defense Council.

3. Issue decrees and demand their publication. He shall also be entitled to ask the cabinet to reconsider any resolution it makes within 15 days of the date of deposition of the resolution with the presidential office.

Should the cabinet insist on the adopted resolution or should the grace period pass without issuing and returning the decree, the decree or the resolution shall be valid and must be published.

4. Promulgate laws in accordance with the grace period stipulated by the constitution and demand their publication upon ratification by the Chamber of Deputies. After notifying the cabinet, the president may also request reexamination of the laws within the grace periods provided by the constitution and in accordance with the articles of the constitution. In case the laws are not issued or returned before the end of the grace periods, they shall be valid by law and they must be published.

5. Refer the bills presented to him by the cabinet to the Chamber of Deputies.

6. Name the prime minister-designate in consultation with the Chamber of Deputies speaker on the basis of binding parliamentary consultations, the outcome of which the president shall officially familiarize the speaker on.

7. Issue the decree appointing the prime minister independently.

8. On agreement with the prime minister, issue the decree forming the cabinet.

9. Issue decrees accepting the resignation of the cabinet or of cabinet ministers and decrees relieving them from their duties.

10. Appoint ambassadors, accept the accreditation of ambassadors, and award state medals by decree.

11. On agreement with the prime minister, negotiate for the conclusion and signing of international treaties which shall become valid only upon approval by the cabinet. The cabinet shall familiarize the Chamber of Deputies with such treaties when the country's interest and state safety make such familiarization possible. As for treaties involving conditions concerning state finances, trade treaties, and other treaties which may not be abrogated annually, they may not be concluded without Chamber of Deputies' approval.

12. When the need arises, address messages to the Chamber of Deputies.

13. On agreement with the prime minister, summon the Chamber of Deputies to hold special sessions by decree.

14. The president of the republic is entitled to present to the cabinet any urgent issue beyond the agenda.

15. On agreement with the prime minister, call the cabinet to hold a special session whenever he deems it necessary.

16. Grant special pardon by decree.

17. In the performance of his duty, the president shall not be liable unless he violates the constitution or commits high treason.

C. Prime Minister: The prime minister is the head of the government. He represents it and speaks in its name. He is responsible for implementing the general policy drafted by the cabinet. The prime minister shall exercise the following powers:

1. Head the cabinet.

2. Hold parliamentary consultations to form the cabinet and co-sign with the president the decree forming it. The cabinet shall submit its cabinet statement to the Chamber of Deputies for a vote of confidence within 30 days [of its formation]. The cabinet may not exercise its powers before gaining the confidence, after its resignation, or when it is considered retired, except within the narrow sense of disposing of affairs.

3. Present the government's general policy to the Chamber of Deputies.

4. Sign all decrees, except for decrees naming the prime minister and decrees accepting cabinet resignation or considering it retired.

5. Sign the decree calling for a special session and decrees issuing laws and requesting the reexamination of laws.

6. Summon the cabinet to meet, draft its agenda, familiarize the president of the republic in advance with the issues included in the agenda and with the urgent issues to be discussed, and sign the usual session minutes.

7. Observe the activities of the public departments and institutions, coordinate between the ministers, and issue general instructions to insure the smooth progress of work.

8. Hold working sessions with the state agencies concerned in the presence of the minister concerned.

9. By law, act as the Supreme Defense Council's deputy chairman.

D. Cabinet:

[No item 1. as published]

2. Watch over the implementation of laws and regulations and supervise the activities of all the state agencies without exception, including the civilian, military, and security departments and institutions.

3. The cabinet is the authority which controls the armed forces.

4. Appoint, dismiss, and accept the resignation of state employees in accordance with the law.

5. It has the right to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies at the request of the president of the republic if

the chamber refuses to meet throughout an ordinary or a special session lasting no less than one month, even though it is summoned twice consecutively, or if the chamber sends back the budget in its entirety with the purpose of paralyzing the government. This right may not be exercised again for the same reasons which called for dissolving the chamber in the first instance.

6. When the president of the republic is present, he heads cabinet sessions. The cabinet shall meet periodically at special headquarters. The legal quorum for a cabinet meeting is ⅔ the cabinet members. The cabinet shall adopt its resolutions by consent. If impossible, then by vote. The resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of the members present. As for major issues, they require the approval of ⅔ the cabinet members. The following shall be considered major issues: The state of emergency and its abolition, war and peace, general mobilization, international agreements and treaties, the state's general budget, comprehensive and long-term development plans, the appointment of top-level civil servants or their equivalent, reexamination of the administrative division, dissolving the Chamber of Deputies, the election law, the citizenship law, the personal status laws, and the dismissal of cabinet ministers.

E. Minister: The minister's powers shall be reinforced in a manner compatible with the government's general policy and with the principle of collective responsibility. A minister shall not be relieved from his position unless by cabinet decree or unless the Chamber of Deputies withdraws its confidence from him individually.

F. Cabinet Resignation, Considering Cabinet Retired, and Dismissal of Ministers:

1. A cabinet shall be considered retired in the following cases:

a. If its chairman resigns.

b. If it loses more than ⅓ of its members as determined by the decree forming it.

c. If its chairman dies.

d. At the beginning of a president's term.

e. At the beginning of the Chamber of Deputies' term.

f. When the Chamber of Deputies withdraws its confidence from it on an initiative by the chamber itself and on the basis of a vote of confidence.

2. A minister shall be relieved by a decree signed by the president of the republic and the prime minister, with cabinet approval.

3. When the cabinet resigns or is considered retired, the Chamber of deputies shall, by law, be considered to be convened in a special session until a new cabinet is formed. A vote-of-confidence session shall follow.

G. Abolition of Political Sectarianism: Abolishing political sectarianism is a fundamental national objective. To achieve it, it is required that efforts be made in accordance with a phased plan. The Chamber of Deputies elected on the basis of equal sharing by Christians and Muslims shall adopt the proper measures to achieve this objective and to form a national council which is headed by the president of the republic and which includes, in addition to the prime minister and the Chamber of Deputies speaker, political, intellectual, and social notables. The council's task will be to examine and propose the means capable of abolishing sectarianism, to present them to the Chamber of Deputies and the cabinet, and to observe implementation of the phased plan. The following shall be done in the interim period:

a. Abolish the sectarian representation base and rely on capability and specialization in public jobs, the judiciary, the military, security, public, and joint institutions, and in the independent agencies in accordance with the dictates of national accord, excluding the top-level jobs and equivalent jobs which shall be shared equally by Christians and Muslims without allocating any particular job to any sect.

b. Abolish the mention of sect and denomination on the identity card.

III. Other Reforms:

A. Administrative Decentralism:

1. The State of Lebanon shall be a single and united state with a strong central authority.

2. The powers of the governors and district administrative officers shall be expanded and all state administrations shall be represented in the administrative provinces at the highest level possible so as to facilitate serving the citizens and meeting their needs locally.

3. The administrative division shall be reconsidered in a manner that emphasizes national fusion within the framework of preserving common coexistence and unity of the soil, people, and institutions.

4. Expanded administrative decentralism shall be adopted at the level of the smaller administrative units (district and smaller units) through the election of a council, headed by the district officer, in every district, to insure local participation.

5. A comprehensive and unified development plan capable of developing the provinces economically and socially shall be adopted and the resources of the municipalities, unified municipalities, and municipal unions shall be reinforced with the necessary financial resources.

B. Courts:

1. To guarantee that all officials and citizens are subject to the supremacy of the law and to insure

harmony between the action of the legislative and executive authorities on the one hand, and the givens of common coexistence and the basic rights of the Lebanese as stipulated in the constitution on the other hand:

1. The higher council which is stipulated by the constitution and whose task it is to try presidents and ministers shall be formed. A special law on the rules of trial before this council shall be promulgated.

2. A constitutional council shall be created to interpret the constitution, to observe the constitutionality of the laws, and to settle disputes and contests emanating from presidential and parliamentary elections.

3. The following authorities shall be entitled to revise the constitutional council in matters pertaining to interpreting the constitution and observing the constitutionality of laws:

a. The president of the republic.

b. The Chamber of Deputies speaker.

c. The prime minister.

d. A certain percentage of members of the Chamber of Deputies.

[2.] To insure the principle of harmony between religion and state, the heads of the Lebanese sects may revise the constitutional council in matters pertaining to:

1. Personal status affairs.

2. Freedom of religion and the practice of religious rites.

3. Freedom of religious education.

G.To insure the judiciary's independence, a certain number of members of the Higher Judiciary Council shall be elected by the judiciary body.

G.Parliamentary Election Law: Parliamentary elections shall be held in accordance with a new law on the basis of provinces and in light of rules that guarantee common coexistence between the Lebanese, and that insure the sound and efficient political representation of all the people's factions and generations. This shall be done after reviewing the administrative division within the context of unity of the people, the land, and the institutions.

D. Creation of a socioeconomic council for development: A socioeconomic council shall be created to insure that representatives of the various sectors participate in drafting the state's socioeconomic policy and providing advice and proposals.

E. Education:

1. Education shall be provided to all and shall be made obligatory for the elementary stage at least.

2. The freedom of education shall be emphasized in accordance with general laws and regulations.

3. Private education shall be protected and state control over private schools and textbooks shall be strengthened.

4. Official, vocational, and technological education shall be reformed, strengthened, and developed in a manner that meets the country's development and reconstruction needs. The conditions of the Lebanese University shall be reformed and aid shall be provided to the university, especially to its technical colleges.

5. The curricula shall be reviewed and developed in a manner that strengthens national belonging, fusion, spiritual and cultural openness, and that unifies textbooks on the subjects of history and national education.

F. Information: All the information media shall be reorganized under the canopy of the law and within the framework of responsible liberties that serve the cautious tendencies and the objective of ending the state of war.

Second, spreading the sovereignty of the State of Lebanon over all Lebanese territories: Considering that all Lebanese factions have agreed to the establishment of a strong state founded on the basis of national accord, the national accord government shall draft a detailed one-year plan whose objective is to spread the sovereignty of the State of Lebanon over all Lebanese territories gradually with the state's own forces. The broad lines of the plan shall be as follows:

1. Disbanding of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias shall be announced, the militias' weapons shall be delivered to the State of Lebanon within a period of 6 months, beginning with the approval of the national accord charter; the president of the republic shall be elected; a national accord cabinet shall be formed; and the political reforms shall be approved constitutionally.

2. The internal security forces shall be strengthened through:

A. Opening the door of voluntarism to all the Lebanese without exception, beginning the training of volunteers centrally, distributing the volunteers to the units in the governorates, and subjecting them to organized periodic training courses.

B. Strengthening the security agency to insure control over the entry and departure of individuals into and out of the country by land, air, and sea.

3. Strengthening the armed forces:

A. The fundamental task of the armed forces is to defend the homeland, and if necessary, protect public order when the danger exceeds the capability of the internal security forces to deal with such a danger on their own.

B. The armed forces shall be used to support the internal security forces in preserving security under conditions determined by the cabinet.

C. The armed forces shall be unified, prepared, and trained in order that they may be able to shoulder their national responsibilities in confronting Israeli aggression.

D. When the internal security forces become ready to assume their security tasks, the armed forces shall return to their barracks.

E. The armed forces intelligence shall be reorganized to serve military objectives exclusively.

4. The problem of the Lebanese evacuees shall be solved fundamentally, and the right of every Lebanese evicted since 1975 to return to the place from which he was evicted shall be established. Legislation to guarantee this right and to insure the means of reconstruction shall be issued. Considering that the objective of the State of Lebanon is to spread its authority over all the Lebanese territories through its own forces, represented primarily by the internal security forces, and in view of the fraternal relations binding Syria to Lebanon, the Syrian forces shall thankfully assist the forces of the legitimate Lebanese government to spread the authority of the State of Lebanon within a set period of no more than 2 years, beginning with ratification of the national accord charter, election of the president of the republic, formation of the national accord cabinet, and approval of the political reforms constitutionally. At the end of this period, the two governments—the Syrian Government and the Lebanese national accord government—shall decide to redeploy the Syrian forces in al-Biqa' area from Dahr al-Baydar to the Hammana-al-Mudayrij-'Ayn Darah line, and if necessary, at other points to be determined by a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee. An agreement shall also be concluded by the two governments to determine the strength and duration of the presence of Syrian forces in the abovementioned areas and to define these forces' relationship with the Lebanese state authorities where the forces exist. The Arab Tripartite Committee is prepared to assist the two states, if they so wish, to develop this agreement.

Third, liberating Lebanon from the Israeli occupation: Regaining state authority over the territories extending to the internationally-recognized Lebanese borders requires the following:

A. Efforts to implement resolution 425 and the other UN Security Council resolutions calling for fully eliminating the Israeli occupation.

B. Adherence to the truce agreement concluded on 23 March 1949.

C. Taking all the steps necessary to liberate all Lebanese territories from the Israeli occupation, to spread state sovereignty over all the territories, and to deploy the Lebanese army in the border area adjacent to Israel; and making efforts to reinforce the presence of the UN forces in South Lebanon to insure the Israeli withdrawal and to provide the opportunity for the return of security and stability to the border area.

Fourth, Lebanese-Syrian Relations: Lebanon, with its Arab identity, is tied to all the Arab countries by true fraternal relations. Between Lebanon and Syria there is a special relationship that derives its strength from the roots of blood relationships, history, and joint fraternal interests. This is the concept on which the two countries' coordination and cooperation is founded, and which will be embodied by the agreements between the two countries in all areas, in a manner that accomplishes the two fraternal countries' interests within the framework of the sovereignty and independence of each of them. Therefore, and because strengthening the bases of security creates the climate needed to develop these special bonds, Lebanon should not be allowed to constitute a source of threat to Syria's security, and Syria should not be allowed to constitute a source of threat to Lebanon's security under any circumstances. Consequently, Lebanon should not allow itself to become a pathway or a base for any force, state, or organization seeking to undermine its security or Syria's security. Syria, which is eager for Lebanon's security, independence, and unity, and for harmony among its citizens, should not permit any act that poses a threat to Lebanon's security, independence, and sovereignty.

Deputies Want 'Awn To Accept Accord

LD0411112689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Rome, Nov 4 (KUNA)—Head of the military government in East Beirut's Christian enclave Gen Michel 'Awn has called on Arabs to initiate dialogue with him and warned that he cannot be bypassed.

Talking to KUNA over the telephone, he said he had decided to dissolve the parliament after Lebanese deputies refused to return to Beirut to review with him the Arab League peace plan on Lebanon and to see how it can be implemented.

More than 20 mostly Christian deputies did not return to Beirut after the al-Ta'if meeting in which the Lebanese parliament accepted the peace plan last month.

Those MP's earlier Saturday issued a statement from Paris urging 'Awn to accept the plan "before it was too late."

The plan, under which a head of state was to be elected by the parliament before November 7, reduces the powers of the head of state and ensures the Lebanese Muslim majority a greater say in running the country.

The general said in his statement to KUNA the parliament had no power to amend the Constitution as it planned to do.

He said the core of the problem was the al-Ta'if agreement which he claimed fetters the president even before he was elected and runs counter to the Constitution and its amendment regulations.

'Awn reiterated his adamant rejection of the election of a president and emphasized that he cannot be ignored because he represents the "majority of Lebanese."

'Awn, besieged by opponents and abandoned by most of his allies, threatened that the coming weeks would not be in anybody's favor if Arabs failed to talk to him and continued to "impose" solutions.

Asked what he specifically wanted now that all Arabs were against his position, the military leader said he was seeking a "sovereign, independent and free" Lebanon and not a "vague" accord that favors certain parties.

He further cast doubt on the Arab League mediation in Lebanon, claiming "the Arab brethren" failed to do him justice, or listen to him.

'Awn To Explain Accord to Mitterand

NC0611204189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn says that the time has come for him to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand to explain the al-Ta'if accord. Gen 'Awn expressed the hope that France will approach the accord from a legal perspective.

The prime minister was speaking to French overseas radio and television.

PSP on Al-Ta'if Document

NC0611143789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Statement issued by the Progressive Socialist Party Political Bureau following a meeting chaired by party leader Walid Junblatt on 6 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] 1. The Political Bureau discussed political developments in the Lebanese arena from the time when agreement was reached on the al-Ta'if document to its ratification by the Chamber of Deputies and the election of a new president on the basis of this document. The bureau wants to underline its stand on these developments as follows:

a. The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] reiterates its commitment to its numerous reservations on the al-Ta'if document. The PSP has spelled out its reservations in many statements and on many occasions. The PSP categorically rejects the notion that this document should be considered a national charter, because it has inherent dangers, contradictions, and clauses that perpetuate the causes of the crisis and the wars in Lebanon. The document is merely a new political settlement imposed by local, regional, and international circumstances. It makes no more than cosmetic changes to the regime which we have opposed and which we will continue to oppose until we establish the bases for a regime of justice and equality. Such a regime will entrench Lebanon's Arabism, protect and guarantee democracy, freedom, and the citizens' rights, and provide equal opportunities for all.

b. On this basis, the PSP's fears remain because the document ignores the question of setting a timetable for eliminating political sectarianism and because it does not touch on the issue of the Army and its reform. We still consider the Army to be the most dangerous institution in the hands of the regime of political Maronism. We cannot agree to any role or task for this army before it is rebuilt and rehabilitated on sound nationalist bases which we approve and which will make this army capable of performing its principal national role of confronting the Israeli occupation in the South, and which will not allow it to be used as a tool in the hands of the president against innocent citizens and the demands of the general social and national struggle.

The question of Lebanon's Arabism and its consecration in the laws and regulations and in the national curriculum remains a principal objective for us. We stress in our reservations here our rejection of the document's insistence that Lebanon is the ultimate homeland because it poses a danger to our Arab and unionist inclinations and because it leads to a renewal of demands for partition in Lebanon.

c. The presidential elections held yesterday constitute a stage; they are not the end of the road. We have not supported a particular candidate because we support and adhere to principles that stem from the spirit of what we said above. Our stand on the new president will be defined in view of his commitment to or deviation from them. Hence, in light of the developments in the country and in view of the severe crisis affecting the pillars of political Maronism in the eastern area, the ultimate responsibility is in the hands of the parties and the ruling fascist forces in this area whose symbols change with the changes in the various political stages. While following developments closely and waiting for the steps that the new president will take and for the outcome of the situation in the eastern area, we call on the citizens to be vigilant and cautious, and to remain prepared to confront any eventuality. Merely holding a presidential election should not be considered the end of the crisis which has lasted for years and whose end appears to be still far off.

2. The PSP Political Bureau denounces the attack on the Patriarchate seat in Bkirki and the insult to his beatitude the patriarch. It reiterates its appeal to the sane forces that appreciate the dangers to take courageous and practical steps on the ground that go beyond mere talk and criticism and put an end to the abnormal state, which is exemplified by Michel 'Awn, the leader of the military gang, around whom some groups in the eastern

area are rallying, thus continuing to lead Lebanon toward the abyss and possible partition. These forces must not be allowed to benefit from the time factor and utilize it for their own benefit.

Organization Threatens Mosad Over Kidnapping

NC0611085189 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Nov 89 p 10

[Text] In a statement received by AL-NAHAR yesterday, the organization "Islamic Jihad Movement—Jerusalem Forces" [Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami—Quwat Bayt al-Maqdis] provided the name of Ahmad Husayn al-Tuhami and included his photograph. The organization accused Israel's Mosad of kidnapping and detaining him in the Israeli Embassy in Paris.

According to the statement, Al-Tuhami, who was born in 1964, came to France from the FRG 90 days before he was kidnapped.

The organization says that "publishing his name and photograph is intended to assist the emergency investigations which French intelligence sources said were launched by the French police."

The organization repeats its warning to Israel's Mosad against "undermining the life of brother Al-Tuhami because the response will be quick, cruel, and commensurate with the crime." The statement concludes: "We have the means to carry out our threats literally."

Junblatt Discusses 'Nationalist Demands'

NC0511194389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] In a speech this afternoon at the opening of a meeting of the national action committee constituent council at Iqlim al-kharrub, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt declared that he will cling to the nationalist demands. He said: True, we were a small minority in Riyadh [as heard], but we were a majority in terms of expressing the will of and representing the majority. We represent all Lebanese.

He praised Deputies 'Assaf, al-Khatib, Jubran, and the others who endorsed the nationalist stand. He said: True, we were unable to break or overcome the old system, which is still very strong. The Maronite political, sectarian, monopolist, and exploitative regime is very strong, given its Arab and international backing. However, we expressed reservations, and we will continue to express reservations, on the Arab document, even at the session that will be held in al-Qulay'at today. We will elect a president democratically.

When Nabih Birri and I met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, we avoided nominating a candidate. I did not nominate anyone, but I ruled out certain people. We did not nominate anyone because we know that nothing new progressive, nationalist, or Arab would result from this old regime. What counts is the election of a president who is not as bad as others and with whom we can deal and achieve our nationalist demands.

Of course, he continued, it is important that a president will not betray us as many have done before. Kamal Junblatt used to [words indistinct] on the so-called election, but I think we will not fall into this trap, because all those who underwent this test—beginning with Ilyas Sarkis, Sulayman Franijiyah, and others before them—betrayed us. When they reached B'abda or any other palace, they betrayed the nationalist and Arab demands. We will not nominate anyone. We welcome any president who may come at this delicate stage. This stage may be decisive in terms of unifying Lebanon, leading it into the unknown or into partition. It seems that the forces seeking partition are powerful, be they Arab or international.

A certain big foreign power, specifically France, has not yet changed its plan for establishing a Christian statelet in Lebanon, specifically in the mountain. Certain Arab countries share France's goal. Naturally, the party that stands to gain most is Israel. We consider the al-Ta'if document and the election of a president in al-Qulay'at a stage on the long path of struggle to achieve the nationalist demands, which are equality and justice along with the liberation of the south. Regrettably, everyone in al-Ta'if spoke of Syrian withdrawal, but only a few spoke of the Israeli presence in the south; most seem to have forgotten about it. [passage omitted]

Vatican Envoy Wants Lebanese To Avoid Violence

NC0411165389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] At the B'abda Palace Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente addressed a message to the Lebanese. He said that the church cannot remain neutral in the face of a new war and recurrent pains. It is high time for the Lebanese to unite and make sacrifices for peace. Given a bigger evil and a lesser evil, they should choose the lesser evil coupled with sacrifices.

He said: We hope to find a way to elect a president who will get cooperation from all—a president who will defend Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence and who will avoid violence at all cost.

Mohtashami on Hizballah Groups in U.S.

NC0611202389 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 27 Oct 89 p 10

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami visited Hizballah positions in al-Biqa', accompanied by His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik and some brother officials of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Last week Mohtashami visited Islamic Resistance positions, where he met with a number of brother fighters and inspected their strongholds.

During his visit to the al-Nabi Shit town, Mohtashami addressed the faithful crowds which gathered to welcome

him. He underlined the pioneering and vanguard role played by leader Imam Khomeyni, who resurrected the nation, restored its past glory, offered true Islam, and worked to implement it.

Mohtashami said: Imam Khomeyni resurrected the whole of Islam and ordered the formation of Hizballah nuclei throughout the world in order to fight injustice, tyranny, and Zionism. This, in fact, has taken place; Hizballah now has nuclei in Islamic and non-Islamic countries, even in the heart of America, instilling fear in the ranks of the enemies of Islam. In the imam's view, Islamic resistance is necessary in Lebanon and elsewhere and Hizballah is the mainstay of the Islamic nation in its confrontation with the enemies of Islam. [passage omitted]

Mohtashami said: We must remove the roots of America and Israel from our countries. We must strike them in their very home because it is our legal mission to cancel Israel's existence, liberate Palestine, and recover the al-Aqsa Mosque. Israel must know that the intifadah will continue until this illegal entity in Palestine crumbles. The Islamic resistance in Lebanon and the world will carry on the struggle until Palestine is liberated from the filth of Zionism and Israel is eliminated. Our struggle will continue until oppressed people rule themselves all over the world.

Following his speech, Mohtashami spoke to to the AL-'AHD correspondent in al-Biqa'. He said: The aim of the visit is to meet the brothers in Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance and to inspect their main positions. Thank God, we visited all headquarters and found the morale of the youths high. We are proud of Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance because they are very essential in Lebanon. They are also essential to the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic, and the revolution command. Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance are essential to the revolution and Islam all over the world.

Regarding the current situation in the Islamic Republic, Mohtashami said: Thank God, the situation is good. We have no unsual problems. Despite all the plots concocted against it by arrogant forces, the Islamic Republic is in good shape thanks to the wise leadership in Iran. Thanks to sound planning, we can defeat all plots.

Regarding rumors by U.S. media and their satellites that there are two lines in Iran—one hardline and the other open and moderate, he said: We are all hardliners. There is no one who is not a hardliner in Iran because we are all Muslims and believers. [passage omitted]

On the possibility of the resumption of the war in view of Iraq's procrastination, he said: Of course, if Iraq maintains its intransigent and hostile stands against Islam and the people's rights and if it does not accept real reconciliation, it is very natural that the situation will change.

Mohtashami concluded by saying: If the Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine adhere to their religion and to Imam Khomeyni's revolutionary teachings, the future will be in their favor and they will achieve victory in Palestine and Lebanon. During my visit to the Hizballah and Islamic Resistance positions in Jabal Safi, western al-Biqa', and the contact lines in Beirut in the past 2 weeks, I saw the youths of Hizballah enjoying very high morale. We must keep this high morale, which is the strongest weapon. Thanks to this weapon, we broke the back of arrogance, America, and Israel in the region. With this weapon we can accomplish great achievements in the future.

Lahd Militia, Israel Leader To Set Up Command

NC0611072689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border strip, a meeting was held in the town of Marj 'Uyun that was attended by 'Aql Hashim and Karamallah Sa'id as representatives of the border agent militia, and an Israeli officer. The conferees discussed the situation in the border strip.

It has been learned that the conferees decided to have 'Aql Hashim visit the eastern area. Hashim complied and visited the eastern area 2 days ago and met with the area's pro-Israeli leaders and the guardians of the cedar. They decided to coordinate on the establishment of a joint command in the border strip that will receive orders and support from the eastern area. They also agreed to establish a joint operations room in Jazzin.

Israeli Navy Intercepts Cargo Ship 3 Nov

NC0411123789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The Israeli Navy intercepted a cargo ship which was heading for Sidon port last night. After searching the ship, three people were detained, and the ship was permitted to continue sailing.

Security Zone Arrangement Discussions Suspended

NC0311121489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The security committee ended its meeting at 1315 today. At the end of the meeting, Muhammad al-Uzali, Lakhdar Ibrahimi's assistant, read the following statement: The security committee held a meeting this morning to assess efforts made thus far to prepare the security zone around the Mansur Palace area, and make the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies as planned.

A meeting was held yesterday, attended by all the parties concerned in West Beirut, to coordinate with other parties in East Beirut. Following the meeting, Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi headed for East Beirut to hold a similar meeting in Colonel Nadim Lutayf's office. However, Col Lutayf and Colonel Samir Mitri informed the Arab tripartite committee representative, in the presence of the Lebanese Army representative on

the security committee, that they have orders not to resume discussions on measures to apply the security plan concerning the security zone around Mansur Palace until the deputies return and meet with General Michel 'Awn. The Lebanese Army representative on the security committee, Lieutenant Colonel Lahhud, confirmed this for Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

Israelis Shell UNIFIL Position in South

NC0311130189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] For the first time since the 1982 Israeli invasion, Israeli occupation forces carried out an artillery bombardment, from inside the occupied Arab territories, of positions held by the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in Bra'shit in the central sector [in South Lebanon]. Several 155-mm artillery shells fell on positions held by the Irish contingent.

The Irish contingent and the UNIFIL command in al-Naqurah protested to the occupation authorities, noting that there was no justification for the shelling.

3 Syrian Soldiers Wounded in Attack in Tripoli

NC0411115989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups opened fire at a roadblock manned by the Syrian special units at the eastern entrance to the city of Tripoli at 0215 today. The Syrian roadblock was hit, and three of the soldiers there were wounded.

Two Popular Army Members Killed in Sidon

NC0611184689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] A security problem broke out in Sidon today between one of the organizations in Majdalyun and the Popular Liberation Army, two of whose members were killed.

Israeli, Resistance Activities in South Reported

NC0711100689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports received from the South, military vehicles have been monitored moving near the Sujud and (Bi'r Kilab) positions. Meanwhile, security sources have reported that Israeli occupation forces fired scores of flares over the borders while Israeli gunboats were cruising Lebanese territorial waters.

The sources said agent Lahd's militiamen have searched the al-Hasbani-Kawkaba sector and crossed the Zummarayya crossing point in the direction of the liberated area.

In another development, resistance fighters used rockets to bombard positions held by occupation forces in the occupied border strip. One of the rockets just missed a military helicopter that was transporting Israeli officers to the Naqqar Kawkaba post.

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation authorities have expelled Muhib Muhammad Qutaysh from the occupied area. Qutaysh, a resident of Hula, was recently released after 3 years detention.

Israeli Raid on Islamic Resistance Positions

NC0711115889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Three Israeli helicopters raided positions belonging to the Islamic resistance in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning, causing material damage only.

According to a responsible Hizballah official, the Israeli helicopters conducted two successive raids against Islamic resistance posts in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and adjacent hills at around 1100 today, dropping air-to-surface missiles on the positions.

The source added that, after 10 minutes, the helicopters tried to conduct new raids against the area. However, antiaircraft guns prevented them from achieving their goals. The source affirmed that the raids caused no loss of life, noting that the damage was limited to property.

Al-Asad Cables Gorbachev on October Revolution

JN0611093689 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus, 6 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulation to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In the cable, Al-Asad expressed in his name, and in the name of the Syrian Arab people and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Gorbachev, the CPSU Central Committee, and the friendly Soviet people. President al-Asad also expressed his confidence in continuing to bolster the relations of friendship and cooperation that have strengthened during the past years between Syria and the Soviet Union.

Reelection of Lebanon's Al-Husayni Welcomed

JN0611193289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah has cabled congratulations to Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni on his reelection.

Qaddurah expressed his warmest congratulations on the vote of confidence he won from the Lebanese parliament. He wished him success in his endeavor to serve the interests of Lebanon, lay the foundations of reconciliation, and resume the march in the interest of security, stability, and the liberation of the south from Zionist occupation.

Newspaper 'Wonders' About 'Awn's Next Step

JN0311073589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH wonders: Can the Lebanese deputies hold the scheduled session to elect a president for the Republic of Lebanon, or will the process of disruption which took place over a year ago and exposed the country to suffering be repeated?

Answering this question, AL-THAWRAH says: So far, the perverted general's circles indicate that 'Awn will resort to disrupting the session, blocking the efforts to remove the obstacles, and preventing the ratification of the national reconciliation agreement, on which the Lebanese people, with all their different sects and groups, were unanimous. And, hence, he will resort to applying an option that he used over a year ago to resume his destructive war which cost the country and people a high price, a price 'Awn transferred to his list of credits in the known Zionist plot.

AL-THAWRAH also wonders: But, after more than a year of suffering and after the facts exposing 'Awn and his objectives became known, will the perverted general be able to carry out his despicable option which is condemned at the local, Arab, and international levels?

Answering the question, the paper says: Events indicate that 'Awn has no real options. We do not believe that the serious pressure and efforts being exerted to introduce moderation and make those who reject the agreement approve it, will bear fruit. If this happens, it will be because 'Awn wants to lure the deputies to go where his gangsters are in control, in order to make up for the opportunity which he lost. From the very outset, 'Awn bound himself to the desires of the homeland's enemies. Today, like yesterday, he is implementing the plot planned for him by Zionist circles.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Undoubtedly, the march of the Lebanese national reconciliation started when the Casablanca summit resolution was issued. It was reinforced and became more entrenched with the national unanimity expressed during the al-Ta'if meetings. The march is now crowned with the parliamentarians' call to each other to hold elections so that Lebanon can restore its national unity and the unity of its territory and people on the one hand, and its national presence in the Arab family on the other.

Press on Removal of 'Awn, Lebanese Elections

JN0511082889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: For the second time, Michel 'Awn is obstructing the implementation of the unanimous Lebanese decision to elect a president as a first step, which must be followed by other steps, to consecrate the unity of Lebanon—both land and people. All indicators show, particularly following the statements made by the East Beirut deputies, that there is a consensus regarding the need to see the deputies exercise their powers to elect a president for the country and endorse the reconciliation document unanimously approved during the al-Ta'if meetings.

It has become certain that the Chamber of Deputies will meet to elect a president for the republic before 7 November. The deputies' determination to hold the presidential election session undoubtedly means that these deputies are categorically rejecting the bragging and boastfulness of 'Awn and those supporting him. Consequently, this can be construed as an unequivocal call for toppling this adventurous general who usurped power under circumstances which have surely become well-known to all, considering that his demise will be viewed as a real victory for the unity of Lebanon—both land and people.

AL-BA'TH adds: It is also goes without saying that the Lebanese people have the right to say their word. Nowadays, the Lebanese people are repeating the statements that they have been making since 'Awn usurped power. All factions of the Lebanese people have always viewed 'Awn as a tool used by the enemies of Lebanon. These militant and persevering people have displayed this in different ways. The statements made by Lebanese religious figures, deputies, and officials about Michel 'Awn confirm that the Lebanese people are not satisfied with the policies and actions of this reckless and conniving general.

As for the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, it says: The moment of decisiveness is still there. Furthermore, it has become more urgent today than ever, considering that 'Awn has taken an illegal step and made an illegal decision to dissolve the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, thus going to extremes in his defiance of Lebanon and all the Lebanese and bypassing the existing constitutional institutions of the country. This move by 'Awn is also a reckless and irresponsible attempt to deal a blow to the march toward a solution—a march launched by the deputies' approval of the national reconciliation charter. 'Awn, who is the only figure rejecting the reconciliation document and waging a war on the Chamber of Deputies and the deputies' efforts to elect a president, has become confused and bewildered, simply because the consummation of the solution is the antithesis of his abnormal and subversive policies. Besides, he is politically isolated and militarily besieged. Hence, regardless of the efforts that he might make, he cannot acquire added strength from Israel and the fascist Iraqi regime. He cannot do more than what he has already done. He has chosen to overlook realities and to try to abort the national solution which enjoys Arab and international backing.

Under the headline "The Lebanese People's Will," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Lebanon, which has prescribed the antidote for its crisis after having it diagnosed and after it has become well aware of its causes through the approval of the al-Ta'if accord, affirms, through its representatives, figures, and political forces, that it will not back down on reconciliation and reforms and that it will not accept 'Awn's obstruction of the march toward a solution. Lebanon will continue to lie in wait for all those who stand to be harmed from this solution, no matter how far they go in their perpetration of crimes, foolish pratices, and measures against Lebanon, against its unity and Arabism, and against its security and stability.

Radio Commentary Contends 'Awn 'On The Run'

JN0511163089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is no longer possible to make sense of General 'Awn's perverse insistence on pressing on with his suicidal project. It is now universally accepted that Gen 'Awn must have had a severe nervous breakdown brought on by a suffocating sense of isolation, his own slogans, and the shattered illusions fed to him by outside forces inimical to Lebanon and the Arabs. He is now on the run, having come under Arab, national, and international siege.

The advice and support coming from behind the armistice lines and from the murderous Baghdad regime no longer do 'Awn any good. Even those who remained reticent about 'Awn's unreasonableness, be it out of conviction or fear, now fail to make sense of the levity to which he clings—a folly that has helped neither the general himself nor the sect which he claims to speak for, or, for that matter, Lebanon. 'Awn's moves and utterances can only lead one to conclude that the general has lost his composure and is staggering ahead of his downfall and the end of an irregular stage in the life of the country—a nightmare that has tormented all Lebanese without exception.

Having been formed by a power-drunk person, 'Awn's disbandment of the Chamber of Deputies—setting aside the illegitimacy of the move—speaks volumes about the frivolity of a desperate man who couldn't care less if Lebanon itself were to drown along with him. Harboring the illusion that he is Lebanon's undisputed ruler and that he is in the right and the Lebanese people and their temporal and spiritual leaderships are in the wrong, the general has decided that there is nothing wrong with sacrificing the people and the homeland. He seems to have decided that if failure is unavoidable, everthing around him must also come undone.

Hence, the general who has joined battle with the enemies of the country against his people still imagines that he can drag both into a renewed civil war. His sick mind must have worked out that Lebanon will no longer matter now that he has been trounced by the consensus reached at al-Ta'if, and given the yearning of the Lebanese to slough off their tribulations and arrive at a state of peace and tranquillity.

Representing a black chapter in the Lebanese conflict, 'Awn does not need constitutional reform, refuses the presidential vote, and desires a replay of his obstruction of last year's presidential elections when he threatened deputies and burned or blew up others' homes. 'Awn thus sets his face against the return of calm and peace to Lebanon and seeks instead to stoke sedition again to destroy what is left of the country ahead of partitioning it. He has thus earned the epithet of the enemy of the Lebanese people and the enemy of their yearnings for unity and liberation, becoming a pariah among his people and nation. He has been doled out a deserving punishment by the well-intentioned Lebanese who make up the majority of the sisterly people. The entire Lebanese homeland is in jeopardy. And if 'Awn's frivolous schemes were to be given a chance to succeed, each and every Lebanese will be a loser, and all will pay the price of their failure to speak out on behalf of the country's interests and to thwart the conspiracy that hangs over

Lebanon. Nothing short of a national consensus and endorsement of the political reform and the election of a president can neutralize the conspiracy. Lebanon is far too valuable to be squandered at the altar of a hypochondriac general intoxicated by lust for power.

The general wants to turn the eastern district into a new border belt. The Lebanese people, most of all the people of the eastern district and the voices of reason there, will not allow the Ba'abda presidential palace to be made into a new Antoine Lahd palace. It would have spelled the loss of all of Lebanon, and the eastern district would have borne the brunt of the despotism of this Israeli instrument and its criminal and treasonous practices.

Lebanon's sisterly people realize that they don't have all the time in the world to squander on procrastination and that they must therefore hurry to remove, once and for all, the obstacle that clings to the Ba'abda Palace and aspires to remain there—even over the dead bodies of the country's people. It is a matter of national urgency that the next few hours should see the people speaking in one voice. The people of Lebanon will not forgive the manipulators who take its future and destiny too lightly.

Whoever cares about Lebanon and its pan-Arab character, both within and outside the country, is looking to the Lebanese lawmakers to proceed with their patriotic option and convene a session to seal what they crafted at al-Ta'if and elect a new president into office—a leader symbolizing the unity of the country and embracing the territorial integrity of Lebanon and its institutions, as well as the coexistence of all Lebanon's children.

It is hoped the parliamentarians will choose a president who will work to pump life into the country's constitutional institutions and assure security and calm for the citizens, as well as end the irregular state of affairs prevailing at Ba'abda Palace.

The entire Arab nation and those who care for the well-being of Lebanon around the world reach out to the people of Lebanon at this critical stage in their history. The representatives of the sisterly country may rest assured that they enjoy unlimited Arab and international support in their drive to fulfill the yearnings and aims of the Lebanese and realize their aspirations for security, stability, and peace. As always, Syria will be at the forefront of those who are prepared to make sacrifices for Lebanon and its people to help them extricate themselves from the claws of the Zionist conspiracy and then resume their normal lives to rebuild their country on the foundations of justice and equality.

Paper Applauds Deputies' 'National Achievement'

JN0611074089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A National Achievement Under Extraordinary Circumstances," AL-BA'TH says: Yesterday, Lebanon witnessed a great historic event when the Lebanese deputies—who met as united representatives of all Lebanese areas, factions, and sides—accomplished decisive national action, elected the bureau of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, approved the document agreed on in the al-Ta'if meeting, and elected Rene Mu'awwad as president of the Republic of Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: There is no doubt that the deputies' accomplishment of this national duty is an action that will always be attributed to them and will be recorded as a sign of their high sense of responsibility and unlimited national commitment.

AL-BA'TH says: This constitutes an act of salvation under very difficult and complicated circumstances. There is no doubt whatsoever that all Lebanese citizens look at the achievement of the Chamber of Deputies with appreciation, pride, and respect for the courage enjoyed by those men to confront the irresponsible threats launched by a usurper of power who is hostile toward national unity, who is thirsty for blood, and who has ambitions in what he has no share in.

AL-BA'TH adds: What took place in Lebanon yesterday was a qualitative move and a new stage—from fragmentation to the stage of national reconciliation, recovery, and ending the tragedy.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Now that the march of reconciliation has been launched, it must not stop. Syria will be the first concerned for this. As it affirmed through its great Arab struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad in his cable to President Rene Mu'awwad, Syria will continue its support for the march of Lebanese national reconciliation with the same strength and momentum. Syria will provide backing and support to the president and the next Lebanese Government. Syria, which has always adopted this stand, will spare no sacrifice regardless of the price until the birth of new Lebanon is completed so that Lebanon will be greater and stronger than all its enemies.

Commentary Condemns 'Awn's Anti-Accord Policies

JN0611164889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] It has become clear that, ever since usurping power in East Beirut, the Zionized clique headed by 'Awn has been working to destroy and fragment Lebanon in a bid to implement an aggressive scheme conceived by the Zionist enemy. The latter's goal in implementing this scheme is to destroy Lebanon as a first step toward destroying the whole Arab nation, especially steadfast Syria.

It is also clear that 'Awn's claim to represent the Lebanese, or even a part of them, is a false, wrong, and deceptive claim. 'Awn represents only himself, his

Zionist masters, and Iraq's Saddam, who found in 'Awn an opportunity and tool to strike at Syria, the bearer of the pan-Arab struggle banner. 'Awn also revealed his true nature when he failed to prevent the Lebanese people's deputies from carrying out the will of the people they represent, the steadfast Arab people of Lebanon. They elected a president of Lebanon who would end 'Awn's will and doctrine.

Therefore, it is not strange that 'Awn and his supporters hastened to show their claws and fingernails in a threatening and menacing manner. It is not strange that he would profane the Maronite patriarchal monument. Other attacks by them cannot be ruled out. They, and 'Awn specifically, are in their death throes, mentally sick, and suicidal; and they have decided to kill Lebanon and its people along with themselves.

The election of Rene Mu'awwad, despite all the unconstitutional and vengeful measures that 'Awn has used, is a slap in the face to the mutinous general and all those who gambled on fragmenting Lebanon, tearing it to pieces, and transforming it into an aggressive base against Syria and the Arabs. There is no doubt that the Lebanese deputies, to whom problems and terrorism were insignificant in furthering the interests of the fraternal country, proved to have a noble nationalist spirit and shouldered their responsibilities admirably, especially since Lebanon was faced with two choices: either to regain its balance after its fall by recovering national unity and strengthening national accord, or to commit suicide on the altar of 'Awn's cravings and his bonds with the Israeli schemes.

The fraternal country has experienced, especially after 'Awn's destructive war, a great national awakening. The Lebanese, their representatives, and their leaders felt that the intentional destruction of the will to coexist and of the country's economic potential would inevitably lead Lebanon to destruction and catastrophe. Thus, an unprecedented Lebanese unanimity crystallized to end the subversion, remove its causes and agents, and proceed immediately toward accord and reform.

The al-Ta'if meeting and the election of the new president that followed have crowned this great effort. We can safely say that Lebanon has set its two feet firmly on the path of a solution. No one can stem this tide—not 'Awn, not anyone. It is important to continue down the road with the same persistence and courage.

The new president, Rene Mu'awwad, who is renowned for his efficiency and nationalism, will have Syria's support and unlimited help. Also, the next national accord government will receive all possible backing from Syria. Syria has made generous sacrifices for 14 long years. Its help was unstinting. It spared no effort to rescue the fraternal country. Nothing makes Syria as happy as the election of the new president, the return of life to the constitional institutions, and the emergence of this Lebanese unanimity to end the crisis. All these are important steps in the fraternal country's recovery of its strength and well-being on the basis of firm national accord.

Syria firmly believes that it is bound to the fraternal country by more than just brotherhood and kinship. It is the unity of blood and destiny. Lebanon's pains are Syria's pains. Lebanon's joys are Syria's. As there is rejoicing in Lebanon in celebration of the start of the road to salvation, there is also rejoicing in Syria. No one can implant division and partition between the two countries. The daily attempts of the conspirators to spoil the atmosphere of trust between the twins will be destroyed against the rock of Lebanese-Syrian awareness and their joint will. Lebanon is embarking on the road of salvation through the wide and large door of unanimity and determination. The enemies of accord will find that their only option is to withdraw and disappear from sight. This is the will of the people.

Afghanistan

EEC Officials Secure Release of 3 Mujahidin

BK0611093189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 6 (AFP)—The European Parliament has secured the release of three mujahidin rebels through negotiations with Kabul as part of a fresh prisoner exchange programme, a government spokesman said Monday.

Afghan President Najibullah decreed Thursday the release of three rebels sentenced to between five and 10 years each on charges of "conducting criminal acts" and "waging war against Afghanistan," Government Spokesman Nabi Amani said.

The releases followed the secret week-long visit to Afghanistan by Lord Bethell, vice chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the European Parliament, the spokesman said.

Lord Bethell, who arrived here via Moscow from London on October 27, met with Afghan officials and the president to begin the process of exchanging Soviet and Afghan prisoners of war (POW) being held by anti-government mujahidin rebels in Pakistan, Mr. Amani said.

He did not name the three freed prisoners but said one of them belonged to the faction led by fundamentalist rebel leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar and the two others were members of other groups.

The freed rebels, who are staying virtually incommunicado in the local complex of the International Committee of the Red Crescent Society, are scheduled to leave for Peshawar Tuesday, the spokesman said.

The EEC negotiator, a member of Britain's House of Lords and an expert on the Afghan issue, has promised he would urge the mujahidin groups in Pakistan to "reciprocate" Kabul's gesture, the spokesman said. "This is the first time the European Parliament came here," Mr. Amani said, adding that the release of the three prisoners was "just a prelude."

Lord Bethell, who left Kabul Friday for New Delhi, is scheduled to reach Islamabad later Monday and then go to Peshawar for negotiations with the rebels Tuesday, the spokesman added. The visit of Lord Bethell and his assistant was unannounced as the human rights official had desired that the negotiations be kept secret until Sunday, sources said.

"He (Lord Bethell) did not specify any number of prisoners to be released," the spokesman said, amid reports that the EEC official had asked for the release of a larger group of mujahidin prisoners held in Kabul's Pol-e Charki jail.

The Afghan Governemnt presently holds an estimated 2,500 suspected guerrillas in the maximum-security prison here while the mujahidin groups are holding some 300 Soviet soldiers and an unspecified number of Afghan troops.

During his talks with President Najibullah, Lord Bethell said the release of POW's would "improve Afghanistan's relations with Britain and other Western countries," the spokesman said. He added that Kabul was not ruling out a second visit by Lord Bethell to the war-torn country.

Britain, the United States, France and West Germany shut their embassies in Afghanistan shortly after the withdrawl of Soviet troops from here February 15. Only the Turkish, Indian and the Pakistani missions are functioning here.

Afghanistan wants to retain diplomatic ties and good relations with other countries, and the release of the three prisoners was a first gesture, the spokesman added.

2 Generals Wounded in Rebel Missile Attack

BK0511134189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin launched a surface-to-surface rocket attack on the Qandahar airport, wounding two generals of the Kabul regime. The Afghan Interim Government news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], says one of the generals is a deputy commander of the Qandahar Army Corps and the other is a commander of the police of the province. It says another general, the ringleader of the Qandahar KHAD [state intelligence service], was also injured in a mine blast planted by the mujahidin. The agency says mujahidin also launched a cohesive operation in the Samar Kheyl area, southwest of (Mafqur) District of Ghazni Province, capturing an outpost of the Kabul regime troops.

Mujahidin Capture Paghman Military Headquarters

BK0611084889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have captured the Kabul regime's vital military headquarters in (Pajak) locality of Paghman District. Fifty-five members of the Kabul regime's military and militia were killed in the fighting. The Afghan interim government's news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that the mujahidin also attacked (Zaydaboi) post of (Rashid Dostum) militia in Paghman, killing three members of the militia and destroying the post. Other members of the militia present at the post fled.

The news agency has reported that the whole district is under the mujahidin's control except some areas of (Qala Hasin), (Harak), and Siah Koh. The news agency has further reported that the mujahidin has captured the

Kabul regime's (Barah Siah) outpost in Sakar Darreh. According to the news agency, the mujahidin have intensified their attacks on security areas in Kabul.

Radio Kabul admitted that Major General 'Ali Akbar was killed in the fighting with the mujahidin in the southern province of Qandahar. Earlier, MIDIA reported that two generals of the Kabul regime were wounded during mujahidin rocket attacks on Qandahar airport andd that another was wounded in a landmine blast.

Officials Attend Burial of 'Martyred' General

LD0511183889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The remains of martyred Major General 'Ali Akbar were buried this morning in a special military ceremony on Martyr's Hill. Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi and 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice-presidents; Sulayman La'eq, member and secretary of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee; Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense; Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of international affairs [title as heard]; Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security; [words indistinct], deputy prime ministers; Lieutenant General Muhammad Asef Delawar, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces; heads of political sections of organs of the Armed Forces; a number of presidency ministers [as heard]; Army officials, generals, and senior officers of the Armed Forces; and a number of the deceased's relatives and friends took part in the funeral.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that his eulogy, written by Defense Minister Shahnanaz Tanay and read by the deputy head of Administration Department of the Ministry of Defense, discussed the honest work and heroism of the deceased in his defense of independence and territorial integrity, and in aborting aggressors' attacks. He stated that his martyrdom is a great and irreplaceable loss. The minister reassured the martyr's relatives on behalf of the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces. In response, a member of the martyr's family expressed pleasure at the attention of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to the members of the Armed Forces.

Major General 'Ali Akbar was martyred during the discharge of duty in the area of Qandahar in a hand-to-hand combat with the enemies of the country and its people.

Martyred Major General 'Ali Akbar was awarded the following medals: Red Flag [Sur Bairagh], People's Friendship [De Khalko De Dostai], and Star [Storai]. He was promoted to the ranks of brigadier general and major general.

According to another report, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, awarded martyred Major General 'Ali Akbar the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Red Star [Sur Storai] medal for his self-sacrifice, heroism, and for his valuable and honest service in the defense of national honor, the values of the Sawr Revolution, and the implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

Further Reportage on Recent Mujahidin Operations

Qandahar Governor Injured in Attack

BK0711081489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have attacked Kabul regime security positions at Qandahar Airport, killing 15 soldiers and injuring 11 others. According to the Afghan interim government news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the injured included [word indistinct] regime's governor of Qandahar. Another report says an ammunition depot has been exploded in Qandahar following an attack by the mujahidin.

3 Posts in Baghlan Captured

BK0511080089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured 3 posts and killed 13 Kabul regime soldiers in the Pol-e Khomri District of Baghlan Province. The mujahidin also seized arms and ammunition. In another operation at Dahaneh-ye Ghowri in the same district, the mujahidin killed four soldiers and seized one machinegun and some Kalashnikov rifles.

Artillery Base Near Jalalabad Hit

BK0511144089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 5 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels Sunday blew up a big government base south of Jalalabad, silencing artillery that has been pounding their hideouts in eastern Afghanistan, resistance sources here said.

They said the artillery base was located close to the area's key Samar Kheyl garrison. The base was attacked in a coordinated operation late Sunday using rockets and long range cannons. No casualty figures were immediately available.

Government troops responded by firing two surface-to-surface Scud missiles from their launching pad in Kabul, which landed on the mujahidin bases of Ghani Kheyl and Chaparhar southeast of Jalalabad. Two children were killed when the missile hit Ghani Kheyl, the sources said.

They said fighting has intensified in the Jalalabad area and that government aircraft were carrying out sorties every hour.

Pakistan Testing Nuclear-Capable Missiles

LD0611065589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] BAKHTAR reports that at today's Foreign Ministry briefing, Muhammad Nabi Amani, the head of the ministry's Press Department, stated to domestic and foreign journalists that it has been reported in the mass media recently that Pakistan has been engaged in the production and testing of [name indistinct] type missiles having a range of 80 kms, and [name indistinct] type missiles, having a range of 300 kms, both of which are tactical, operational missiles.

Aslam Beg, chief of the General Staff of the Pakistani ground forces, has stated that these missiles weigh 500 kgs. This weight enables them to carry nuclear warheads.

Amani Comments on Missiles

LD0711093289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 5, BAKHTAR—Muhammad Nabi Amani, chairman of the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, stated in a briefing held in that ministry with the participation of domestic and foreign journalists that recently Pakistani press had published news on the production of two kinds of rockets named K "7-1" and "7-2" by that country.

Pakistan has tested these two kinds of rockets with ranges of 80 km and 300 km respectively, Amani said.

Aslam Beg, chief of General Staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces has stated that, these new rockets with a weight of 500 kg, are able to carry nuclear warheads," he added. [sentence as received]

Pakistan, Amani added, produces such rockets in time when Western circles as well as Pakistan itself have launched extensive propogation that as if the RA state gets arms and ammunition from the Soviet Union.

If the RA state gets weapons from the USSR that is because of that it is the target of invasions and imposed war, and is compelled to obtain weapons needed for the defence of independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country in accordance with the friendship, cooperation and goodneighbourliness and protocols concluded with the USSR, he stressed.

But Pakistan which is not threatened from its neighbours and other countries, with the production of these rockets intends to threaten its neighbours, specially the RA, because rockets "7-1" with a range of 80-km and rocket "7-2" with a range of 300 km would threaten Afghan provinces adjoining with Pakistan and central cities of the RA including Kabul respectively. The RA is concerned on the production of such rockets capable of carrying nuclear war heads, Amani concluded.

Bangladesh

Ershad Greets Gorbachev on October Revolution Day

BK0611163689 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated President Gorbachev on the occasion of the 72d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution of the Soviet Union. In a message to the Soviet head of state, President Ershad expressed his confidence and optimism that the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries will further (?acquire) greater depth and dimension to the mutual benefit of the two people. The president wished continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the friendly people of the Soviet Union.

Bombings at Dhaka University; 2 Students Shot

BK0511062689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0623 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 5 (AFP)—Two student leaders were shot and home-made bombs exploded overnight during violence between rival student political groups on the volatile Dhaka University campus, police said Sunday [5 November].

They said seven people were arrested, including the two students who had been shot by unidentified gunmen.

An internal squabble between rival factions of the opposition Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) Party was thought to be the cause of the violence, police said. JCD is the student wing of Begum Khaleda Zia's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which has called a nationwide dawn-to-dusk general strike Sunday.

The campus, already tense after a reported meeting of some student leaders with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Thursday, was now quiet but many students anticipating more trouble had left their dormitories, students said.

A heavy contingent of police have been deployed at the 13 dormitories, and roads in and around the campus had been closed.

The alleged meeting with Mr. Ershad, as rumours of the launching of a pro-government students organisation grew, sparked off immediate condemnations from different opposition student groups.

Twenty-one student leaders Saturday denied any meeting had taken place and called the reports "false, baseless and designed by the government to create confusion in student community."

Mr. Ershad dissolved his ruling Jatiya Party's student wing in 1986, saying it would help restore calm on campus and urged opposition leaders to follow suit.

Opposition-Sponsored Strike Situation Noted

BK0511161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] In Bangladesh, the nationwide strike called by the opposition parties disrupted normal life in different parts of the country today. The opposition parties are demanding the resignation of President Ershad and holding of free elections. Authorities canceled most of the domestic flights. Armed police were seen patrolling in the main cities. The strike seriously affected the operations at the Chittagong port.

Dhaka 'Normal'; 250 Injured

BK0611094989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 6 (AFP)—Dhaka returned to normal Monday following Sunday's opposition-called general strike that left some 250 people injured and 150 arrested, witnesses and newspapers reported.

At least 200 were injured when supporters and opponents of the strike, which ended at 6 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday, clashed at a jute mill in the suburb of Narayanganj, officials said, adding that police fired tear gas and used batons and rubber bullets to quell the fighting. Among the injured, 15 were being treated at a local hospital, the officials said.

Police said another 25 people were hurt in sporadic violence elsewhere in the capital during the dawn-to-dusk strike called by the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia.

The strike was backed by several opposition alliances to press for President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his eight-year-old government to resign and call free elections.

Mr. Ershad, according to local press reports Monday, told a meeting in northwestern Dinajpur District during the strike that the opposition political parties were pursuing, "the obsolete politics of the colonial era by indulging in hartal (strike), violence and destruction."

He said: "People had seen enough of opposition politics in the past... (which) has been hindering the process of development, increasing miseries and could never deliver any goods to them."

According to Mr. Ershad the strike officially was the 61st this year. Mr. Ershad, 59, seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup by removing an elected BNP government

The government claimed that each day of work stoppage caused some 2.5 billion taka (78 million dollars) of production losses.

Prime Minister Qazi Zafar Ahmed said Sunday that opposition strikes during the past six years, which he numbered 66, have caused a "total production loss" of about 165 billion taka (5.15 billion dollars).

Sunday's strike lacked the impact of the great anti-Ershad surge of an united opposition in November 1987 as opposition political parties announced separate programs for Thursday—the second anniversary of the 1987 "Dhaka seige" program.

Analysts here said the opposition's failure to agree a consolidated plan of action for the anniversay would result in an unsuccessful anti-Ershad campaign.

The brief unity of the major opposition groups in 1987 helped launch the "Dhaka seige" of November 10, when a young supporter of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League was gunned down by security forces during widespread violence.

Appeals by various opposition leaders to Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia since then to unite in their efforts to oust Ershad have so far failed to yield any result.

Abul Ahsan Appointed New Foreign Secretary

BK0511162289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Additional Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan has been promoted to the post of the foreign secretary. He replaces A.K.H. Morshed who retired from the service. Career diplomat Abul Ahsan joined the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Secretariat as its first secretary general in 1985 and was holding the post til last month.

India

Further on Congress-I Election Manifesto

BK0611163889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The Congress-I manifesto for the general elections pledges to bring back to parliament the panchayati raj [village council] and nagarpalika [urban local bodies] bills, revamp the cooperative movement, and initiate sweeping judicial reforms. It promises a well-planned path of urbanization, a sensitive and people-oriented administration, and a special scheme for women called the Indira Mahila Yojna. The 60-page manifesto was released by the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Employment-oriented policies in industry, agriculture, and trade; tackling of corruption; conversion of AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [television] into corporations with continued ownership of the government; and nonalignment and peace as major planks of the foreign policy are the other salient features of the manifesto.

The manifesto gives a detailed account of the ruling party's performance during the last 5 years before laying

out its program for the next 5 years. The major achievements claimed by the party include successful tackling of agitations in various parts of the country, recording the highest growth in the economy, a record food grain production, huge investments in agriculture and allied fields, industrializing backward areas, and launching of several welfare programs for the weaker sections. The manifesto also speaks about self-reliance in defense, the launching of "Prithvi" and "Agni" [missiles], enhancing India's prestige in the neighborhood, historic agreement with Sri Lanka, new era of peace and cooperation with China, the honor acquired in the world, the initiatives for the AFRICA [Aid for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism, and Apartheid] Fund, and the Indo-Soviet Delhi Declaration of 1986.

Alleging that the opposition wants to continue what the manifesto calls the regime of power to the power brokers, the Congress-I claims that it wants to give power to the people. The party further claims that the panchayati raj and nagarpalika bills would have routed out inefficiency and corruption, but were prevented from becoming law. The manifesto says the party will work for an even spread of urban settlements throughout the country so as to enhance prosperity of every district and will bring industry and infrastructure to the doorstep of rural India. Lok Adalat [people's court] and Nyaya Panchayats [local bodies for administration of justice] will be strengthened and quick and inexpensive justice will be ensured for the poor, the weak, and the deprived.

On the Rama Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine claimed by both the Hindus and the Muslims] issue, the party appeals to all the people to maintain peace and foster understanding between different communities. Claiming that the Congress-I government had successfully tackled armed insurrection in the northeast, agitation in Assam and Darjeeling, and secessionists in Punjab, the manifesto expresses determination to eradicate communalism from the body politic.

On the economic front, the Congress-I says it will pursue an employment-oriented development strategy and make the eighth plan what it calls a plan for productive employment. It says the Jawahar and the Nehru rozgar yojnas [employment schemes] will be given adequate funds to achieve this objective. The party claims to have given the country unprecedented agricultural, industrial, and infrastructural development. The manifesto says that the state intervention in the economy will continue to safeguard the interests of the poor and the primacy of the public sector will be maintained. Declaring agriculture as the highest national priority, the manifesto says the Congress-I is committed to a policy that will add value to agricultural produce and create new markets for farm output. It says more tax reforms will be brought in so that tax evaders are not spared, while tax laws are made simpler. It will work toward making Indian industry more competitive, develop agro-based industries and the small-scale sector, and expand the area of exports.

On foreign policy, the Congress-I says it will promote friendship with neighbors, further normalize relations with China, and improve relations with Pakistan.

The manifesto says India's relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries will be strengthened and areas of understanding with the United States expanded. Support for elimination of apartheid in South Africa and for the Palestinian demand for homeland, efforts toward establishing a sovereign and nonaligned Afghanistan, and a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem figure in the party's foreign policy program.

It says the country's defense preparedness will be maintained at a level so as to effectively meet any threat from external aggression or domestic destabilization. The manifesto points out several initiatives taken by the prime minister in the international fields, like the planet protection fund, action plan on disarmament, and resumption of the North-South dialogue.

The party says it will further the economic and social development of minority groups, impart modern technological skills to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and give various concessions to backward classes. It proposes to introduce a pension scheme for workers in the organized sector, bring social security scheme for the unorganized labor, and increase workers' participation in management.

The manifesto says 30 percent of the seats in the local bodies will be reserved for women and one youth club will come up in every village to involve youths in social change. It says the low-income groups, particularly the urban poor, will be provided funds to build their homes, primary health care facilities will be extended, and nutrition will be made a priority item. Universalization of elementary education; eradication of illiteracy; incentives to girl students and children belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minority communities are the major proposals of the ruling party in the field of education.

Record 7,000 Candidates Contesting Elections

BK0611144889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The third phase of the election process for this month's Lok Sabha and 5 state assembly polls completed today with the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the lone Lok Sabha and 32 assembly seats in Sikkim ending this afternoon.

Polling will be held in 527 Lok Sabha constituencies spread over 3 days on the 22d, the 24th, and the 26th of this month. The election for the Shahdol parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh has been countermanded following the death of a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] candidate. In Jammu and Kashmir, a National Conference candidate has been elected unopposed from the Srinagar constituency. A record number of 7,000 candidates are in the fray.

The Congress-I is contesting 509 seats and left the remaining seats for its allies. The five-party National Front has put up candidates in 315 constituencies. The BJP is contesting 205 seats. The left parties are contesting 135 seats.

In Sikkim, 20 nominations were either rejected or withdrawn, leaving 139 contestants for the assembly poll. There are five candidates for the lone Lok Sabha seat. The prominent candidates include Miss Dil Kumari Bhandari of the Congress-I and Mr Nandu Thapa of the Sikkim Sangram Parishad.

In Tamil Nadu, 45 political parties, including eight national parties, have nominated 468 candidates for 39 Lok Sabha seats. Sixteen constituencies will witness straight contests.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the ruling alliance of National Conference and the Congress-I is contesting all five seats. The opposition parties have fielded candidates only for Jammu and Udhampur parliamentary seats.

Gandhi Praises Deceased Fijian Leader

BK0411055089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Nov 4 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has hailed deceased former Fiji premier Timoci Bavadra, who spearheaded a political fight by Fiji's Indian population for equality, as "a humanist par excellence".

"He was a man of wisdom, courage and integrity and fought to uphold democratic principles and values," the prime minister said in a message to Mrs. Bavadra, an official spokesman said here Saturday [4 November]. "He was a humanist par excellence, believing and living by the faith of universal justice which cuts across barriers of race or religion," the message added.

Dr. Bavadra, 55, who died Friday following a year-long fight against cancer, was prime minister of an ethnic-Indian-dominated government which was ousted in a military coup in May 1987.

Mr. Gandhi offered New Delhi's "sincere condolences" to Mrs. Bavadra and said that "the greatest tribute that we can pay to him is to dedicate ourselves to the attainment of his ideals."

In a separate message, Minister of State for External Affairs Kanwar Natwar Singh said Dr. Bavadra's death was "an irreparable loss not only to Fiji but to the entire South Pacific region." [passage omitted]

Press Release Denies Troops Sent to Sri Lanka

BK0611155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] An official press release says that there was no fresh induction of PKF [peacekeeping force] jawans [soldiers] into Sri Lanka as reported in a section of the press. On the other hand, the rate of de-induction has increased in the last fortnight after the withdrawal of PKF from Amapara areas, it said.

Meanwhile, in the continuing political violence in the island, 19 bullet-ridden bodies were found today in Kandy District. According to official sources in Colombo, most of those killed belonged to the People's Liberation Front and were shot in different encounters with security forces.

Curfew Imposed in Bihar Town Following Violence

BK0611155989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] In Bihar, a 12-hour curfew from 1800 this evening has been imposed in Sasaram as a precautionary measure following incidents of looting and arson. According to the district magistrate of Rohtas, a violent mob set on fire various shops and indulged in looting. About 24 persons have been injured; 15 persons have been arrested. The situation is reported to be tense but under control.

Iran

Hague Verdict on Claims Against U.S. Detailed

LD0611213489 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—As per the verdict issued at Hague, Washington has agreed to pay back 570 million dollars out of Iran's claims against the U.S. Government and banks, a presidential bureau official in charge of international legal affairs disclosed today.

The Iranian official said the amount is part of settlement of some cases between the two countries at The Hague international tribunal. The U.S. representative has committed to pay the amount to the Islamic Republic sometime this month.

The two countries have filed against each other a total of 3,780 cases at The Hague, of which 900 deal with big claims and the rest concern those less than 250,000 dollars. The tribunal has so far issued verdicts on some 300 cases.

Till last March, the U.S. has been awarded 500 million dollars from its claims totalling some 6 billion dollars, while Iran was paid 510 million from its claims against the U.S.

The tribunal is presently handling the most important case codenamed B-1 which deals with Iran's military purchases. Iran is demanding back over 10 billion dollars paid to the U.S. before the revolution for military hardware, which in violation of all regulations the Americans have withheld from delivery.

The cases are expected to drag on for another two to three years, unless the two sides agree to reach a comprehensive settlement over their respective claims.

The tribunal was set up at The Hague following the 1980 Algiers Accord, under which the Islamic Republic released personnel of the former American Embassy who were detained on charges of espionage.

Although, Iran for its part has fully cooperated with the tribunal, some of its verdicts have been open to doubt.

An example of the controversial decisions was the claim awarded to the Phillips Oil Company totalling 110 million dollars together with the accumulated interest, a verdict which even international legal observers consider as lacking enough reasoning and therefore against international law.

Iran's liaison representative to the tribunal Mr. Heyrani-Nobari [name as received], brother of the Iranian ambassador in Moscow, said the Islamic Republic has called on the tribunal to annul the verdict, and has withheld the said amount.

The current judge of the tribunal, a Swiss lawyer, has been charged with malfeasance on three occasions by the Iranian liaison, who has questioned the qualification and impartiality of the judge.

World legal forums believe that Iran's proofs in this regard are firm enough.

'Some' Hostages Moved From Beirut to Country

JN0511203789 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Nov 89 pp 1, 30

[Excerpt] According to diplomatic reports from Beirut, a leading Iranian leading member of Hizballah in Lebanon recently managed to get some of the foreign hostages moved to Iran to be placed at the disposal of the Iranian authorities.

The same reports quote informed party sources as saying that the Hizballah Iranian official, a hardline fundamentalist before switching over to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's camp, was a prominent cadre in Hizballah whose local leadership had sought to limit the reverberations of developments in the power struggle in Tehran on itself.

'U.S. Spies' Statements on CIA Activities

NC0611172389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1815 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Statements by four "U.S. spies" (Mahmud Zarifiyaneh), Jamshid Amiri-Bigvand, Kazem Afkhami Moqaddam-Tabrizi, and Mas'ud Baba'i from the feature "America: Conspiracy and Aggression"; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [(Mahmud Zarifiyaneh)] I am (Mahmud Zarifiyaneh), son of 'Ali Mohammad, identity card dated 1306 [1926], issued at Mashhad. I was arrested on 27 September 1988 by the brothers of the Ministry of Information in Mashhad. My nom de guerre is Daryush and I was arrested on charges of being involved in espionage with CIA officials of the United States.

[Jamshid Amiri-Bigvand] I am Jamshid Amiri-Bigvand, born in the year 1317 [1938]. My identity number is 28 issued at Bakhtaran. I have a wife and four children. I was employed as a petrochemical engineer in Shiraz, and I used to receive approximately 16,000 tumans as my monthly salary. I was arrested on 18 September 1988 by the Ministry of Information for the crime of involvement in espionage activities for the CIA.

[Kazem Afkhami Moqaddam-Tabrizi] I am Kazem Afkhami Moqaddam-Tabrizi. My nom de guerre is Siavosh, and I was arrested in Mashhad on 27 September 1988 in Mashhad on charges of cooperating with the CIA.

[Mas'ud Baba'i] I am a pilot and colonel, Mas'ud Baba'i, son of Mohammad, belonging to Neyshabur.

[(Zarifiyaneh)] About 2 years ago, I went to Turkey on a trade visit to make purchases and met an Iranian who was a member of the CIA and who was instrumental in my forging relations with CIA officials. In one of the hotels, I met three Americans and after a few months they took me to Germany, where I was introduced to one of the experts, a supervisor, whose name was John. First, I was tested with a lie-detector and when I was successful, the necessary training was given to me, and I returned to Iran.

Before my arrest, I had sent 110 letters, with the information required by the United States written in invisible ink on them.

[Amiri-Bigvand] In order to obtain a U.S. visa for my son and myself, I went to the U.S. Embassy in one of the European countries and after filling out the necessary forms I handed them over to the young consul. He spoke to me and asked me what was the reason or motivating factor for my visit to the United States. One thing I told him was that the conditions in Iran are not very satisfactory for me and I wished to go to the United States as I had received my education there as well. I also wished to obtain employment there in view of the education, experience, and specialization that I possess.

[Baba'i] In Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] in 1986, I flew to Istanbul with my family. Three days later, I went to the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul and asked for political asylum. I presented my identity card and passport, and I signed a form requesting political asylum. After my visit to the consulate, I was so elated as I thought my request for asylum had been accepted, that I rang up my home in Tehran and asked for my household effects to be sold.

However, when I went to the consulate again, I was given a negative answer. The reason they gave me was that

since I was on holiday and I have a valid passport on which I was traveling, a request for political asylum could not be accepted under these conditions. In order to (?rectify this) I was asked if I was ready to cooperate with them for 2 years. I would have to send them any information that was given to me if I considered it to be of value to them. In that case, after 2 years I would be given class one status and would be eligible to travel to the United States. I was given 48 hours to consider this offer after which I declared my acquiescence. I met Embassy Security Officer Mr Thompson and he contacted the Air Force representative in Germany, who was named Jimmy. After 48 hours, Jimmy and another of his colleagues came to see me and were introduced to me.

I spoke to Jimmy regarding the Air Force, especially the conditions of the (?advisers) and their infiltration in the command. Then I was given training in writing in invisible ink and I departed Turkey for Tehran after a few days.

[Kazem Afkhami Moqaddam-Tabrizi] About 3 years ago in Turkey, my daughter and I went to the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul to obtain a visa to visit the United States to see my son who was studying there. They gave me a visa but began making excuses for not giving my daughter a visa, saying they did not know whether the letter calling her over to visit was a genuine one. We said you can send a telex. We insisted, but they did not listen. We came out of the embassy and a person named Mostafa who was working as a translator in the U.S. Embassy came and approached us saying that if we could pay $500 for telex charges, he would get a visa for my daughter. We paid the $500 and after a few days we contacted the embassy, but the embassy denied knowledge of any such telex. I approached Mostafa and realized that he had swindled us and there was no question of any such telex. In order to get to the truth of the matter and in order to recover our $500 and to ensure that no other Iranian would fall into this predicament, I once again contacted the embassy. I was interrogated and so was Mostafa. That night I was told that I had tried to resort to bribery in order to obtain a visa and had thus violated U.S. laws. Therefore, they canceled my visa.

My passport was returned to me and I saw that the visa given to me 6 days ago had been canceled. It had been crossed out. I returned to Mashhad within a few days of my return and after changing my passport, I once again went to Istanbul to obtain a visa. As soon as he [not further identified] saw me, he recognized me and said: You were the one who used bribery and tried to violate our country's law. Now you have changed your passport and come to deceive us again. We may as well tell you the truth: We have sent a telex to all our embassies to tell them not to give you a visa.

I returned to Iran once again and after quite a while, one day an Iranian who spoke with an Istanbul accent telephoned me and said that I am (?ashamed) that I did not give you a visa, and I wish to obtain a visa for you. Come to Istanbul. I said I do not have the money to keep visiting Istanbul and getting a visa and so on. He said: I will handle your expenses. I went to Istanbul and contacted him. He came to the hotel and discussed the visa, and it was clear that he knew my visa had been canceled. We then began speaking on the situation in Iran, the people's views on the government, and in general similar things about Iran, and he asked me some questions. He then said: There is no problem for me and I will definitely get a visa for you, but you must talk to a friend of mine.

After a few days, he came with another person who also knew of my visa's being canceled. He also promised to get a visa for me and then spoke of communism and asked me what I would do if the communists came to Iran. I said: Naturally, like all Iranians and Muslims, I will fight them. He was happy to hear this and asked, are you ready to cooperate with a foreign organization which intends to combat the USSR in Iran? I said: Yes, if it is not with the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq organization] or other small groups. He said: We do not want anything important from you. Only send us information on the infiltration of (?Russians) and communists in Iran, in Mashhad. We do not want you to participate in demonstrations, instigations, or assassinations. We will not even permit you to take a gun to your house and keep it there. We do not want anything difficult from you.

I was convinced, and I accepted. After a few days, I was taken to a hotel and there I met an American called Don who asked me the same kind of questions. He said that we will test you for your sincerity and truthfulness. He brought the gadget and they asked me questions and then said you were successful and ever since, I have been cooperating with them.

[Amiri-Bigvand] I was told that we wish to test you with the lie detector. I was perhaps a little upset and I was asked not to be perturbed. I was told, we also submit to these lie-detector tests, and it is no big deal. This gadget is something like blood pressure testing equipment which is tied around the arm while currents are generated from it to another gadget which inscribes lines on a paper strip. Of course the questions they asked had to be answered with a yes or no. They were rather simple such as: Are you an Iranian? Do you have any links with any intelligence organization? Do you want [words indistinct]. First it was merely tested, and then the actual test was administered. When it was done, they said that the results were satisfactory.

[(Zarifiyaneh)] First of all, I was taught to write letters in invisible ink by an American in a hotel in Germany and also how to decipher the letters sent to me. Then a few months ago, the method of receiving messages and detecting them off the radio through coded messages in Japan was also taught to me by American experts. In addition, I learned how to read maps by means of a compass in Singapore.

[Amiri-Bigvand] I received training in writing letters in invisible ink, receiving coded messages off the radio, and in decoding radio messages in a Tokyo hotel.

[Moqaddam-Tabrizi] The U.S. agents who had been assigned to me taught me how to make the writing on letters I received from them visible and how to send letters in invisible ink regarding the information they requested.

This was taught to me in Turkey. I learned how to receive coded radio messages and how to detect them in Singapore. Using the compass and reading maps with its help was also taught to me in Singapore. I also learned how to locate the landing sites for paratroopers and [words indistinct] day and night in Singapore.

[(Zarifiyaneh)] The main topics of the information that was asked of me and which I sent during trips and in messages through letters and by radio—as I am well-acquainted with journalism—were on the activities of the Soviets in the Khorasan region, the people's views on the war between Iran and Iraq, the mode of the forces' participation on the fronts, shortages of raw materials in factories, the increasing use of narcotics among the youth in particular, high prices, shortages of consumer goods, spiraling prices of various commodities and raw materials which were under government control, the people's discontent with the various organizations, mounting unemployment, and migration of villagers to the cities.

What is worth noting is that on one of my trips in the fall of 1987, when Iranian-U.S. relations had reached an intense and critical juncture, we were asked to inform them about land around Mashhad with an area of 1,000 square meters which should not be in the vicinity of any military or security forces' base, so that in case of need, the United States would be able to land its paratroopers from the Persian Gulf. The necessary training to help the paratroopers land was given to us in daytime and at night.

[Unidentified speaker]: What was your method of soliciting people and (?information).

[(Zarifiyaneh)] My efforts to obtain information took various channels. Most important of these were utilizing the most sensitive points from the speeches of some of the country's officials in Mashhad, and collecting necessary information on criticism in local newspapers, news, and rumors circulating among the people or from people with whom I was acquainted. Without divulging my own opinions, I utilized their views.

[Amiri-Bigvand] I have sent 49 letters in invisible ink to them and all the reports the Americans needed were mostly on economic topics such as shortages, [words indistinct] of consumer goods, people's donations to the fronts, the war fronts, the dispatch of people to the front, the people's opinions about this and about the acceptance of Resolution 598, as well as about Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani when he was appointed as commander in chief. They asked us about the people's support for him, whether they think that he can resolve the country's problems and similar other questions.

Some questions were on the production of ammonium nitrate or chemical compounds. I gave them as much information as I had. Recently, we were asked about the followup on UN Resolution 598 and what was the effect of the decline in the foreign exchange rates such as in the dollar, other (?currencies) and gold and machinery which is purchased against dollars and other goods bought against foreign exchange. The prices of these goods plummeted. Topics like these, as well as on consumer goods, and their mode of rationing them whether the people manage to obtain them.

[Moqaddam-Tabrizi] The Americans wanted the people's opinions on the war, the government, the communists, differences among the officials and the clergy, the people's opinions on Resolution 598, and the officials utterances including the esteemed Mashhad Friday Imam's sermons, identification of the IRGC base in Mashhad, the level of drug addiction among the youth and from where the narcotics enter Mashhad, the dispatch of geographical maps of Khorasan Province and the lines of contact for the province, the condition dispatch of people to war fronts and the manner of the people's donations to the fronts, identification of the site for paratroopers' landing outside the city of Mashhad which should be away from the IRGC, Gendarmerie bases, electricity cables, and should have an area of approximately 1500 square meters of level ground.

We were also asked about the economic condition of the people and to recruit three other people for such cooperation.

[Baba'i] My message to all my compatriots, expecially those who dream of a better life in the West, or who continually disregard the honor of being Iranian, merely to obtain a visa from Western countries, in particular the United States, by sleeping behind the walls of their embassies abroad is that the West is a mirage, the United States is a mirage. One must come to one's senses and should combat this mirage with Islamic tenets. If there are those who do not pay attention to these values, and are still Iranians and love Iran, they should endeavor, at least for the sake of Iran and respect for their country [voice breaks as he begins sobbing] not to become entrapped in the spider's web of espionage services, because if they are entrapped their golden dreams will become a hellish nightmare.

If they become involved in this work, the mental pressure as well as the torture of their conscience will follow them until their arrest like a shadow.

Amiri-Bigvand Give More Details

LD0611185489 Tehran Television in Persian 1734 GMT 3 Nov 89

["Part two" of the "Confessions" program featuring "confessed spy" Jamshid Amiri-Digvand—recorded]

[Text] I, Jamshid Amiri-Bigvand, was born in 1317 [1938-39]. I am married and have four children. After the completion of my secondary school education, in 1338 [1958-59], I went to the United States for higher education. After completing higher education I returned to Iran and was employed by the petrochemical company after some time. First I was trained and then I worked in the training department, the laboratory, and commercial and marketing departments of the petrochemical company in Shiraz.

After the revolution, the purge committee decided to lay me off. After being laid off, I and a number of my friends formed a company called Tahqiqshimi, which carried out chemical research. After a while, because of certain problems, the company was dissolved and I returned to the petrochemical company. On the whole, however, I was determined to go to the United States.

After talking about my problems and difficulties with my brother-in-law Mr (?Amdeli), he said that he was in touch with a former security official who was abroad. He told me to cooperate with them. After a while he told me to cooperate with the Americans, because they too would be cooperating with the Americans. For that purpose I went to Japan. There I contacted the American Consul. Later he introduced me to a person named Joe, who was an embassy official. They talked to me about the Soviet threat. They sincerely asked me to cooperate with them to remove that threat.

With personal motives and without considering their cursed goals, I promised to cooperate. After a while, Joe introduced me to a person named (?Tim), who was my CIA contact. When he learned that I worked at the petrochemical company in Shiraz, he asked: What do you research? I said chemical fertilizers and methods of improving them. He said: Do you conduct research in warfare? I said no, it is not in our curriculum. He asked: Is Iran capable of manufacturing chemical bombs? Because of my experience and expertise I said yes, it would be very simple for Iran to manufacture primitive bombs. The necessary expertise and experience exists.

After talking with him, they tested me on a polygraph which was in a Samsonite briefcase. Then I attended training courses in invisible writing, receiving and decoding coded radio messages, and destroying documents, such as previous correspondence. For this purpose they gave me a radio, a lens and some blue and white pills for developing received letters, together with invisible ink and some paper for correspondence.

The information they sought concerned inflation and social issues, such as the people's approach to war issues and the end of the war. One of the issues they were particularly interested in was the possibility of Iran becoming a chemical power, because they were very concerned with trends in military issues—in particular military. They were curious to see what they [the Armed Forces] were doing. They wanted me to tell them what activities were in progress in Iran regarding the manufacture of chemical weapons. They were extremely concerned about this matter.

I believe they did not seek the information for themselves, because it would not benefit the United States at all. Perhaps they wanted it for Iraq or someone else.

Since I lived in Iran, they gave me a telephone number in Germany and told me to use it in an emergency to contact them in Germany. I believe that the center for spying on Iran is in Germany. However, despite the fact that I telephoned, they could not do anything.

After being purged, I was reemployed by the petrochemical company on 16,000 tomans a month, but agreed and seeking easily earned income drove me to it. I was told that there was no danger or hassle involved and forced to do this. They were aware of my motives. Therefore they promised me an eye-catching sum of $1,200 a month. But since they kept their own accounts, I was not informed of the details and did not know whether they were paying into the account or not, or how much; I actually did not receive a dollar from them during that period. The only thing I received was some travel expenses, which were paid in Japan.

I now realize how I fell into this trap. I did not know what the consequences were of spying for the United States. I ask God Almighty and the Iranian people to forgive me for committing treason against my country.

Carter Cited on Saudi Role in Tabas Operation

LD0611183289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has for the first time officially admitted to the cooperation provided by the Saudi regime in the abortive U.S. military attack on Tabas. Last night Radio America [as heard], in a report on the ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. den of spies in Tehran, quoted Jimmy Carter, saying:

In the process of its attack against Tabas, the United States lost three aircraft and seven helicopters, and the U.S. forces, on their return from their abortive mission from Tabas, went to a base in [Saudi] Arabia. The cooperation of several Arab countries, including Egypt, with the United States, in carrying out the Tabas conspiracy, had been raised before.

Paper Urges Lebanese Christians To Abandon 'Awn

LD2510193489 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—By ending General Michel 'Awn's political ambitions, Lebanese Christians could rationally help terminate war, hardship and destruction "which are gifts given to Lebanon by the Phalange puppets and their allies," said an English today. [sentence as received]

"The Christians must now choose between again fueling the civil conflict that has ruined Lebanon's economic and social fabric, or reconcile themselves to their status as a minority by striking a comprehensive understanding with the Muslim majority," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

The editorial stressed that it was up to the Christians "not to allow 'Awn and his likes to decide their destiny".

Commenting on the al-Ta'if meet and 'Awn's rejection of its plan to end the 14 years of civil strife, the daily said, Lebanese Christians would pay dearly if they did not try to put an end to 'Awn's dream of Maronite hegemony.

Apparently the renegade Christian's ganging up with Iraq's Ba'thist regime to humiliate Syria has failed in essence, it noted.

"'Awn's troubles are compounded by the fact that Christian lawmakers acceded to the Syrian position on the controversial issue of troop withdrawals and the primary need for political reform."

KAYHAN hinted that all "undesirable foreign interventions" in that country took place at the invitation of Phalangists and Maronite rulers.

"They will be doing a great service to Lebanon if they acknowledge and inform their people that soliciting foreign 'assistance' in a domestic conflict is a ticket to self-destruction," it cautioned.

The English daily suggested that 'Awn was "caught between the Baghdad-Tel Aviv diktat" regarding the Syrian withdrawal and the Sunday decision of the deputies.

"For the Christian minority at least there should remain no more doubts that 'Awn's presence, duly backed by the Iraqi dictatorship will only help to accelerate Lebanon's total annihilation," concluded KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Paper Cited on Lebanese Presidential Election

LD0411062989 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 4 Nov 89

["Daily: Assuring Rights of Muslims, Key to Peace in Lebanon"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—An Iranian daily said Saturday that a "reasonable, amicable and harmonious government" was needed in Lebanon to heal the sufferings of the Lebanese people and to ensure Muslim's rights.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES was commenting in its editorial on the possible session of the Lebanese Parliament to choose the president on Saturday.

"Today one can test the desire and the will of the Lebanese parliamentarians and hence the people they represent for peace," said the English daily.

It then referred to the Saudi's happiness at the overall results of the al-Ta'if conference and the conditional acceptance of Walid Junblatt's Druze Party and Nabih Birri's Amal Movemen' and Michel 'Awn's insistence on withdrawal of Syrian forces. The daily suggested, "by the look of things the situation is not finally determined and anything can happen."

The editorial expressed doubt that the choosing of president would be an indication of "finality because the sectarian divides in the parliament haunt the chance of any future hope of peace and reconciliation."

The daily warned that the armed groups "not all happy with the terms of the al-Ta'if accord are waiting for the very first opportunities to derive satisfaction from shooting off. How they react can make a great deal of difference to future peace, or to interminable war."

Commentary on Lebanese Presidential Election

LD0611125789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1047 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. The election of a new president in Lebanon is the title of our first political commentary to which we draw your attention:

Last night the Lebanese parliament, in an extraordinary session, elected a president by a majority vote. [passage omitted] Immediately after the election of Rene Mu'awwad, domestic and internatioanl reactions to the Lebanese parliament's action surfaced. The majority of Arab countries, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain expressed their support for the president. [passage omitted] On the domestic level, however, Michel 'Awn, who had convened a concurrent session with a number of right-wing Christian dignataries, alleged that Mu'awwad's election was contrary to the Lebanese Constitution, and thus rejected the act of parliament. The leader of the right-wing National Front Party, Camille Sham'un, also collaborated with Michel 'Awn, while Samir Ja'ja', the leader of the Lebanese right-wing militia, refrained from making any remarks. The illegal Lebanese premier who was aware the parliament would elect an individual against his wishes and in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement had, in a preemeptive move,

dissolved the parliament. However, this move had no fundamental impact on the trend of political developments in Lebanon.

At present, the primary duty of the new president is to form a government of national unity which should be set up in line with the recent accord, which is known as the new national charter. In this framework, Salim al-Huss, the acting prime minister, immediately tendered his resignation to Rene Mu'awwad. [passage omitted] It has been said that Rene Mu'awwad is an advocate of Islamic-Christian coexistence in Lebanon, as well as progress in the country.

Rene Mu'awwad was elected as the ninth president under conditions in which the Lebanese Christian faction is split into numerous divisions. On the one hand, Mu'awwad, on entering the town of Zgharta in the northern Lebanon in the wake of his election, was warmly received by the Christian inhabitants of that town. On the other hand, a number of Michel 'Awn supporters set fire to the religious Maronite headquarters and even forced the patriarch to embrace Michel 'Awn's portrait. The same division exists among the Christian politicians. In such conditions and considering the regional and international support for the new president, Michel 'Awn has found himself in a dangerous position, even though Mu'awwad said in his inaugural speech that he will not remove anyone—plus the fact that some political forums have spoken of the possibility of 'Awn's becoming the military chief in the new cabinet. Nevertheless, if he still calls himself the prime minister and goes against the tide, he will soon be removed from the political forum in Lebanon. Anyway, it seems it is still not possible to make a conclusive forecast, especially as the Lebanese politicians have always been prone to compromise rather than to quarrel.

However, notwithstanding such a hue and cry, the election of the new Lebanese president suggests the official realization of a significant Lebanese principley. Previously, if sectarianism was devoid of an official basis, the endorsement of the new national charter will henceforth officially hand over the presidency to the Maronites. It is precisely for this very reason that the majority of Lebanon's national and Islamic organizations rejected the al-Ta'if agreement from the beginning.

If the 14 years of war, bloodshed, and destruction has solidified sectarianism—even though with little luster—now the question arises whether or not Lebanon will witness military or political developments in its attempt to completely dissolve its sectarian system.

IRNA Views Western Policy Regarding Lebanon

LD0611180689 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—The divide and rule policy of the colonialists has left a trail of religious discord and racial hatred over most parts of the world. In Asia, Africa and Latin America, the satanic hands of these powers are seen behind every clash.

But the side which has borne the brunt of these attacks is the Islamic community, which because of its special characteristics and unbending will, has been the main target of the colonialists' military, political and propaganda tirade.

Over the past few centuries Muslim has been pitted against brother Muslim, and the result of this fratricide is obvious to all, with modern day Lebanon standing out as an obvious example.

Alas, this beautiful Muslim land due to its special geo-political situation, has served as target practice for the venomous arrows of arrogant cupids.

Although, stirring up sectarian strife among Lebanon's Shiite and Sunni Muslims who have lived peacefully for centuries is not a new colonialist plot, the event which made these powers intensify their sinister schemes was the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979.

The tidal Islamic wave ilt generated in the region, especially in oppressed Lebanon, seriously endangered the vested interests of the imperialists and Zionists, and ever since they have left no stone unturned to fuel politico-religious discord among the various groups.

Global arrogance would have almost succeeded in its unholy designs, but for the unity and awareness of Lebanese Muslims, as the conspirators soon learned.

Of course, differrence of opinion may occur, and it is something deemed positive, but the Muslims are too proud to overlook their common religious and national interests. In fact, this effective closing of ranks, has proved to be an impenetrable barrier against colonialist plots, as the recent meetings in Tehran and Damascus between the combatant Lebanese-Palestinian groups bear clear evidence.

It was firm testimony of the Lebanese will for safeguarding their Islamic and national identity at a time when conspiracies were underway elsewhere to betray the rights of the Muslim majority.

The U.S. and its allies on the other hand, back the Maronite minority, which plays the role of an imperialist and Zionist tool in Lebanon, and an impediment to the legal and righteous will of the Lebanese Muslims.

Do the self-styled champions of democracy realize what they are doing?

Arrogance has made them blind to their own follies, helping unveil their true faces to the world public opinion.

The U.S. and its allies have even ignored their deceiving slogans of 'democracy' and respect for the rights of the majority, and are instead fueling wide-scale political

provocations in their desparate bid to prolong the wretched existance of the corrupt tribal system in Lebanon.

Muslims form the sweeping majority in Lebanon, while according to the tribual system—the legacy of French colonialism—and contrary to democratic principles which the West loves to brag about, a tiny Maronite minority has been put at the apex of the power pyramid.

Even the 62 Lebanese parliamentarians who gathered under the Saudi umbrella in al-Ta'if, claiming to represent Lebanese people, after all those days of discussion, failed to concieve anything except for a morbid plan which endorsed the tribal system and ignored the will of the Muslim majority.

For the West and its allies, slogans of democracy is only a disguise for fresh provocations and meddlings in the internal affairs of other states, and a blatant trampling of the rights of peoples who do not bow to their illegal domination.

A clear proof in this regard is the U.S. position vis-a-vis the revolutionary states in Latin America determined for absolute independence from imperialist hegemony.

The stance of the U.S., Britain and France towards the political system in Lebanon defy any definitions for democracy. In fact, their machinations to breathe life in the dying tribal system, is an impudent bid to ensure the sovereignty of a tiny minority over the fate of a Muslim majority.

Finally, the whole scenario helps reveal that sugar-coated words such as 'democracy', 'human rights' and 'freedom' or for that matter 'terrorism' are only meaningful in the Western lingo, when they are in line wilth global arrogance's vested interests.

However, as the West should have realized by now, it is the firm will of nations which thwarts colonialist plots, and the Muslim nation of Lebanon has shown that it is resolute and determined where the rights of the majority is concerned.

KAYHAN Analysis of Al-Ta'if Meeting Cited

LD3010192389 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—In reflections on the al-Ta'if conference the Persian daily KAYHAN Monday said the three-week meet did far too little to solve the social and political problems in Lebanon. It said the only tangible accomplishment of the conference was to agree on equal parliamentary seats for Muslim and Christian delegates.

KAYHAN said in Lebanon the post of president and that of the chief of the Armed Forces is still restricted to the Christian minority which, the paper said, means that the last word will still be with the Maronites.

'The threat of sectarian fighting,' said the daily, 'still prevails in Lebanon. The parity of seats at the parliament will not solve much of the problem. Still the post of the president and chief of the Armed Forces staff is in the exclusive domain of the Maronites, at the expense of the Muslim majority.

Even the transfer of part of the power of the president to the prime minister (retained by Sunni Muslim?) is not likely to undo any knot in Lebanon, and at any rate although Syria is present in two-thirds of the Lebanese territory, but the principal stumbling block in Lebanon is the ruling system in that country, it added.

'Al-Ta'if only sprayed a new paint on the improperly balanced system in Lebanon. The Lebanese do not live by relying on the agreements reached at the al-Ta'if conference. They must live with the ruling system in Lebanon, a system which still retains its potential threats,' said KAYHAN.

The commentary reminded that powerful groups opposed to the decisions of the Saudi sponsored conference still hold their ground on both sides of Beirut, and that the gunfire by either of the two groups can actualize potential threats in that country.

Further Reportage, Comment on Eliasson's Visit

Meets With Velayati

LD0411235289 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Issues relevant to the speedy implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 were discussed in a meeting between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson here today.

During the meeting Eliasson reported on his talks with Iraqi officials, and stressed on the U.N. chief's resolve for the full implementation of the resolution.

Velayati in reply reiterated the need for Iraqi withdrawal from the Iranian occupied territory as a first priority in the resolution after the cease-fire.

'The implementation of all the articles of the resolution with an emphasis on troop pull-out to the international borders and exchange of the POWS will bring an all-out and just peace between the two countries,' Velayati said. However, he added, Iraq has obstructed the progress of peace stability in the region by rejecting the U.N. chief's plans.

Earlier in the day Eliasson discussed ways for breaking the current deadlock in the peace talks with Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki.

2d Round of Talks With Velayati

LD0511114189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] The second round of talks between Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's special envoy, and Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati, was held in Tehran this morning. In this meeting, Eliasson reaffirmed the UN's efforts toward implementing the general secretary's report—submitted to the Security Council—based on giving priority to the implementation of the clause pertaining to the withdrawal of the forces [to internationally recognized boundaries] and the exchange of the POW's.

Velayati declared the Islamic Republic's readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in this connection. He said: The withdrawal of the forces, followed by the exchange of POW's, is the most necessary move and could expedite the total implementation of UN Resolution 598, and the attainment of lasting peace.

Velayati added: The Iraqi regime can no longer exploit the issue of the exchange of the POW's as a propoganda weapon because, according to the general secretary's plan, its timing and manner of execution has been totally clarified, and any Iraqi obstructionism in accepting the implementation of the withdrawal of the forces and the exchange of the POW's will lead to further procrastination in the repatriation of those individuals.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0511114889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Jan Eliasson, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, this morning, during a meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, presented a written message and warm greetings from UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. He gave a report on his talks in Baghdad to our country's president.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the special envoy of the UN secretary general gave a positive assessment of the talks. He reiterated that the Security Council and the UN secretary general endorse the full implementation of Resolution 598. He expressed the hope that with an all-round effort the implementation of the Resolution 598, in its entirety, would start in the near future and lasting peace would prevail in the region.

Then, thanking Perez de Cuellar for his kind message and wishing Eliasson success in his peace-seeking mission, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: From the moment we accepted Resolution 598 we have demonstrated our goodwill regarding the establishment of lasting peace in the region. The best evidence of our earnestness is the rebuilding of the Abadan oil refinery near the Iraqi border and the reconstruction work in war-stricken areas.

Finally, he expressed the hope that thanks to the existence of the clearcut and air-tight 1975 Algiers Accord and the relentless efforts of the UN secretary general, lasting peace will be established in the region as soon as possible.

Success of Visit 'Doubtful'

LD0611072589 Tehran IRNA in English 0713 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov 6, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES said Monday that a logical approach by Iraq and the Security Council to the Iran-Iraq peace talks is the key to the regional peace.

TEHRAN TIMES said in its editorial, "lack of genuine inclination" among Security Council's permanent members for the implementation of the resolution should be regarded as a major factor hindering the talks.

The editorial said, "at least some of the five permanent members of the world body are not as dissatisfied as one naturally expects them to be with the no-war-no-peace situation. It is in such an uncertainty-infested situation fraught with fear and anxiety that arms can sell like hot cakes."

Turning to the $1.6 billion increase in the volume of U.S.-Iraq trade exchanges, the daily said that Washington was investing in order to "secure and develop its strategic interests in the region and particularly in Iraq."

It said that now the United States could "exploit Baghdad's politico-military potentials along its own designs."

The editorial described Iraq's claim over the Arvand River as another element hampering the talks. "Iraq's touting over its so- called 'unbreachable sovereignty' over the waterway is mainly political in nature before being a territorial one," it said.

Therefore, success of the current visit of Jan Eliasson, the U.N. secretary general's special envoy, to Tehran to break the deadlock on the stalled peace talks is doubtful, said the editorial. "But hopes for a lasting peace cannot be slashed altogether," it pointed out.

Daily Comments on Visit

LD0611110989 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Monday editorialized on the current visit to the region of the U.N. chief's special envoy Jan Eliasson aimed at breaking the deadlock on stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks. It said "informing Iran and Iraq of each other's viewpoints is necessary, but not sufficient."

The issue is clear, but Iraq seeks its own interests in prolonging the present state of no-war-no-peace, it said criticizing the U.N. Security Council and the secretary general for not taking proper steps.

"If Eliasson's mission is limited to informing Iran and Iraq of each other's viewpoints, naturally the main issue will remain unsolved. Under such a circumstance Iraq will feel certain that its interests will be guaranteed and will be tempted to continue its obstrictionist policy and raise more excuses," it said.

The daily urged the Security Council and the U.N. secretary general "to make Iraq abandon its impending moves" adding that they should openly hold the Iraqi regime responsible for the stalemate in the peace talks.

It stressed that the Resolution 598 should be carried out fully and in the order that it is stated in the document.

It is only then, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI concluded, that the way will be paved for exchange of POWS and their return to their families and the implementation of other articles of the resolution.

Dailies Welcome Eliasson Visit

LD2910094389 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies welcomed the imminent visit to Tehran and Baghdad of the U.N. special envoy Jan Eliasson in their editorial saying that he had difficult hurdles ahead.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL referred to Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks of last September that Iran was ready to push back the Ba'thist forces from the Iranian border areas which are still under Iraqi occupation. "This is not a threat, rather, a strong resolve shared by all Iranians," the English daily said.

The daily rejected the assumption that Iran would "sit still vis-a-vis continued Iraqi insolence." To deal with Iraqi belligerency, the daily recommended Eliasson to launch on various diplomatic and economic measures against the Baghdad regime.

Turning to the four-point plan proposed by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the daily said, "Eliasson's job now is to toss the ball to the Iraqi court."

"This approach would send the message to Saddam [Husayn] that the uneasy calm prevailing across the battlefields does not wash him of the crimes he committed against the Iranian nation. This process will also make Saddam realise that the burden of untangling the knotty outstanding issues involving the war lies on who started the conflict," said the daily.

Meanwhile, the Persian daily ABRAR said that Iraq's refusal to pull its troops to the internationally recognized borders is the main impediment on return of tens of thousands of Iranian war refugees to their home towns.

The daily said that had Iraq accepted Perez de Cuellar's latest proposal calling for withdrawal of troops to international borders and release of the POWs, by now all POWs and war refugees would have returned to their homes.

ABRAR reminded that the refugees, mainly women, children and elderly were still enduring difficult life conditions despite the fact that ceasefire has been in force for more than a year.

The Security Council should escalate its efforts for execution of the Resolution 598 because it is the highest authority capable of handling the task and taking the Iran-Iraq peace talks forward, said the editorial.

Urging the council to give more backing to Perez de Cuellar, the daily said that if these efforts fail to make Iraq implement the resolution, the Security Council members should have the courage to introduce "publicly and officially" the party responsible for the failure.

President Congratulates Turkey's Ozal on Election

LD0411233189 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a message of congratulations to Turgut Ozal on the occasion of his election this week as Turkish president, it was announced Saturday [4 November].

"I sincerely congratulate your appropriate election as the president of the brotherly and neighborly state of Turkey," he said in his message.

In his message, the president wished success for Ozal on behalf of himself, the nation and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope in his congratulatory message to Ozal that Tehran-Ankara friendly relations and cooperation would further expand in the direction of mutual understanding and interests.

"I am sure Turkey will witness outstanding progress under your presidency," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his message.

TEHRAN TIMES on Turkey's Foreign Policy

LD0211074689 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Iranian officials seemingly welcome Turgut Ozal's election as Turkish president due to his awareness of issues of economic relations and national security, said the English daily TEHRAN TIMES.

In its editorial and daily said that among Turkish officials Ozal had been a "main political weight" backing expansion of ties with Iran during recent years.

Referring to the two country's interest in expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties, the daily expressed regret that mutual ties have witnessed "their coldest stages over the past six months in the last decade."

The morning daily added that Turkey needed a rapid economic growth as it was to enter the European Economic Community.

"Considerations along this line of economic priority then necessitates for the Turkish leaders to bat for the expansion of ties with a potential economic tiger in the region, Iran, away from all ideological differences," stressed the daily.

Having problems with its other neighbours, the English daily suggested that Turkey had to have "cordial relations" with Iran. "No wise politician can opt for any crisis with Iran as well," stressed the daily.

Commentary on Talks Between Turkey, Bulgaria

NC0311114189 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Unattributed commentary: "Talks Between Turkey and Bulgaria on the Question of Muslim Immigrants"]

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Georgi Yordanov, and the delegations accompanying them arrived in Kuwait yesterday and began their talks aimed at resolving the problems of the Muslim minority of Turkish origin in Bulgaria.

Kuwait managed to persuade Turkey and Bulgaria to discuss the latest disagreement between Ankara and Sofia, which was caused by the emigration of Bulgarian Turks.

The question of emigration arose as a result of the Bulgarian Government's intensification of its efforts to close down mosques, ban the use of the Turkish language and Turkish names, and wage a struggle against the Muslim minority to assimilate its culture and literature [as heard]. The emigration of the Muslim Turks from Bulgaria to Turkey began toward the end of May.

The Turkish Government raised objections over the matter. Turkey regards the Muslim minority of Turkish extraction in Bulgaria as a community of 1.5 million Turks. When the first refugee groups began to arrive in Turkey, the Turkish Government announced that the country was ready to receive all the minority Turks from Bulgaria.

Turkey claims that Bulgaria is responsible for the increasing emigration of the Muslims from Bulgaria. A total of 315,000 Bulgarian Muslims had entered Turkey by 22 August, the day when the Ankara government stated that immigration to Turkey would be subject to the conclusion of an agreement between the two countries. Meanwhile, a number of emigrants left Bulgaria for the Scandinavian countries.

Turkish officials believe that Bulgaria's participation in the talks is an indication of the Sofia government's acceptance of the fact that a Turkish minority exists in Bulgaria, a fact it always rejected thus far. Meanwhile, Turkish officials have expressed the hope that the talks will lead to progress on the question of the rights of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria and have a bearing on the question of organized emigration.

Bulgarian diplomats, however, have been making only general and ambigious statements in connection with the talks. They maintain that the talks concern only the question of bilateral relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, (Stefan Stefanov), chief of Balkan Countries Department of the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, said: "The talks also include matters related to humanitarian problems and the question of the reunification of families which have been separated as a result of emigration."

The statements that have been made indicate that Bulgaria maintains a positive approach on the continuation of the emigration of Bulgarian Muslims to foreign countries. If this is true, however, why should the Bulgarian Muslims not have the right to live in Bulgaria?

It is a fact that Bulgaria is not the only country in the world which has a minority community. The best thing for Bulgaria to do, therefore, would be to accept the existence of its Muslim minority and adopt a humanitarian approach by recognizing its right to exist. It should not be forgotten that the concept of a humanitarian approach was emphasized by the chief of the Balkan Countries Department of the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry

Bulgaria's avoiding the establishment of social equality and justice when reformist moves in the world are reaching peak levels, communist countries are being forced to reconsider their policies, and the Eastern bloc countries are beginning to accord greater freedoms to their peoples and minorities is not seen as a logical stance. Furthermore, if the Sofia government continues its attempts to assimilate the culture and literature of the Muslim minority in Bulgaria, as has been the case in the past, it will not be successful. Sofia's policy violates the concept of freedom of faith and culture, a right which is also upheld by a number of Eastern countries. Therefore, it cannot be successful.

Nevertheless, the fact that Bulgaria has agreed to hold talks on the emigration of Muslims to Turkey may be regarded as a reason for maintaining the hope that that country has agreed to reconsider the policy which has forced the Muslims to emigrate.

Missing Military Attache Said in Switzerland

TA0311151389 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Although 2 months have passed since the disappearance of Colonel Mohammad Reza Tabeshfard, military attache of the Islamic Republic Embassy in Turkey, and despite the fact that the Turkish Foreign Ministry has informed the Islamic Republic of his disappearance, the regime is not releasing this report.

Flag of Freedom Radio was the first station to broadcast the report on the disappearance of Colonel Mohammad Reza Tabeshfard. It was in the wake of this report that other news media, including Turkish newspapers, announced his disappearance. The Turkish newspaper, MILLIYET, wrote in this connection that Colonel Tabeshfard left Turkey for Switzerland along with members of his family.

KEYHAN Comments on Khamene'i's Speech

LD0611160489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Greeting to Us and to All of God's Good Subjects"]

[Text] The speech given by the leader of the revolution reminded us of the imam's brotherhood charter. The spirit and the meaning of the imam's charter of brotherhood was mutual trust among people, factions, and those who have differing views, stressing Islam's values and safeguarding its life-giving principles.

The guidance given by Ayatollah Khamene'i at yesterday's Friday prayers in Tehran contained the same message: the need to show kindness in society, shun suspicion, trust officials, hope in the future, deal with any dissapointments, and display revolutionary dignity and spirit and a sense of responsibility toward the revolution and its values and gains.

Why should it not be like this? Why should we not trust our officials, who are the best society can offer? Why should we not have hope in the future? The fact that international criminals and aggressive powers headed by the United States remain hostile toward us is the best reason for us to believe in our officials. Should we not become more hopeful and active now, after 10 years of resistance against innumerable problems, putting behind us all obstacles and gaining more experience in the process?

Is it not true that everyone, including our sworn enemies, admits that the Islamic revolution is growing throughout the world day by day? Do we ourselves not hope that the dawn will break for the world's oppressed? Therefore, why should we become slaves to dissapointment or slaves to the monster of dissent, or fall under the influence of those who spread dissent and disillusionment?

We must be certain that the future is in our hands. The era of evil, emptiness, and oppression is over. Let us join hands and continue along the path of the imam, in a spirit of hope in the future, trust in our officials, and revolutionary valor and responsibility toward the revolution and all its important acahievements so that we can achieve this great and historic mission.

President Receives Reconstruction Work Officials

LD0411114989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The governor general of Khuzestan, accompanied by a number of officials in charge of the reconstruction of Abadan and Khoramshahr, were received today by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The president's executive deputy and the head of the country's reconstruction headquarters were also present. A progress report on reconstruction work in the province was submitted to the president.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated the need for expediting the reconstruction of the country's war-stricken areas. He said: The reconstruction of the war-stricken areas should be carried out with the greatest possible impetus, and in accordance with a fixed timetable. The president stressed the need for reliance on the epic-making and revolutionary spirit of our nation in the reconstruction of our country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicated that the reconstruction of the war's ruins is among the most potent weapons in combating the global arrogance and the United States. He said: Our dear people should know that reconstruction of the ruins left from the imposed war is among the most effective weapons in combating the arrogance and is a thorn in the eyes of the arrogant powers, particularly imperialists, reactionaries, and Zionists, who had intended to exacerbate the war to create havoc in this country of the lord of the ages.

The president referred to the anniversary of 13 Aban [4 Nov—seizure of U.S. Embassy]. He said: The strong and zealous sentiments displayed by our people against the aggressive arrogance of the United States on this anniversary once again proves that they are forever present on the scene, just as they were at the onset of the victory of the revolution.

In conclusion, the president reaffirmed that the energy reserves of the people should be used for reconstruction, particularly the reconstruction of war damage.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Naval Commander

LD0611113689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Commodore Shamkhani, the commander of the Iranian Navy, in the course of a meeting with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning, presented a report to the president on the Navy's situation. According to an IRNA report, the president offered the necessary guidelines on the issues raised.

New Navy Chief Called 'Worn-Out Pawn,' 'Loser'

TA0311190789 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear compatriots. Statesmanship in the Islamic Republic consists of an unending series of measures and decisions that do not fall within any comprehensive plan. They are reactions in response to a certain need or immediate situation, but generally they become the source of much worse difficulties.

One of the most prominent and at the same time most calamitous examples of this type of statesmanship is the appointment of the new Navy commander. It is not clear under pressure of which faction, or in deference to which consideration, or on the basis of which move by the leadership caused 'Ali Khamene'i to dismiss the commander of the Navy and replace him not with another naval officer or even an officer from the Army's other branches. Meanwhile, seconds later he promoted a worn-out pawn and a loser who was a former minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] to the rank of rear admiral, and appointed him commander of the Iranian Navy. This is the greatest insult to the Iranian military, especially to the officers and cadres of the Iranian Navy. The newly appointed rear admiral knows nothing about either warfare or command. He knows nothing about shipping or navigation. He is unaware of the Navy's needs, and has no prestige among Navy personnel. This is another purely political appointment, one of the worst of its kind. He will be dealing with a force that has completely lost morale because of these new changes.

What has not been considered at all in these changes is the morale of the Navy and the Iranian Army in general, as well as the impact of the appointment of the new rear admiral on the country's defense capability. As is their wont, this time again they did not see beyond the tips of their noses. They wanted to respond to a real or imagined need, but created a thousand new problems for the country. They wanted to fill one hole but dug hundreds of others for the country instead.

The Iranian Army has undergone purges and been subjected to humiliation by the mullahs for 11 years now. They either kill the Army's personnel and officers or send them to be killed. They concocted the IRGC as a rival. They took the Army's weapons away, then sent it to face the enemy. How will the Army now interpret and tolerate this latest blow?

The message behind the appointment of the rear admiral is clear enough. After the failure of the merger of the Army and the IRGC, now they are making the Army into a Guards Corps. The IRGC, whose every unit is controlled by one faction of the ruling circle, resisted a merger with the Army, but now its leaders have launched a counterattack.

A corps whose commander appeared on television and accepted responsibility for the defeats of the last weeks of the war is now taking revenge on the great Iranian Army. This corps has elevated its incompetent personnel to high ranks and is making them commanders of the Army. These individuals do not have the capability to defend the country nor to allow the Army to carry out its duties.

Khamene'i is a rubber stamp that bows to any pressure. He has inflicted the greatest damage on the forces which he believes are under his command. He has not even thought of protecting the Army from interference by various factions. Among the baffling things that have been done by this regime, none is more baffling than this. The damage it will cause will be greater than the others.

Maldives

Gayoom Views India's Role in Regional Stability

BK0411160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] President Gayoom of the Maldives has said that the experience of his country last year shows that India can play a significant role in maintaining stability in the region. A strong India cannot be a threat to her neighbors or the small countries in the region. On the other hand, we feel safe and secure as India is a democratic nation.

Mr Gayoom said he appealed to some countries for help when armed mercenaries attacked the Maldives to stage a coup, but India responded first positively by sending its troops to crush the coup attempt. This is a classic example of how neighboring countries can be friendly and cooperative for mutual benefit, particularly in times of crisis. The Maldivians would never forget this help, he added.

Speaking to the visiting Indian newsmen after laying the foundation stone for the National Security Services building at Male yesterday, Mr Gayoom asserted that his country is now in a better position to face any such crisis. He was hopeful that the proposals moved by Maldives and supported by India for the security of small nations will be adopted by the UN General Assembly. The Political Committee has already approved the proposals framed by a 43-nation panel.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent Sebastian Roberts reports that touching scenes were witnessed at the (Hulule) Airport when the remaining Indian contingent left Maldives for home. Indian jawans [soldiers] and the Maldivian National Security Services men hugged each other as they came to part.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Greet Soviet Leaders

BK0711110289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto have felicitated Supreme Soviet Chairman Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and USSR Council of Ministers Mr Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov.

The president in a message to Mr Gorbachev said he is confident that the bilateral friendly relations and cooperation between Pakistan and the Soviet Union will continue to grow in the coming years which will benefit the people of both countries.

In a message to Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, the prime minister said Pakistan attaches great importance to its friendly relations with the Soviet Union, greatly values the recent positive trends in relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union, and is confident that these relations will expand in the coming years which will benefit the people of both countries and serve the cause of regional peace and stability.

Fijian President Arrives, Meets UN Mission

BK0611153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia, now in Islamabad, visited the headquarters of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] and met with Fijian military officers associated with the mission. At present six Fijian military officers are affiliated with the UNGOMAP. He also attended a briefing on this mission which works under the United Nations.

Australian Army Chief Meets Sirohey, Beg

BK0411161789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] The chief of General Staff of the Australian Army , Lieutenant General G. O'Donnel, had a meeting with the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, in Rawalpindi today. They discussed matters of mutual interests. He also called on the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

Later, the Australian chief of General Staff visited the College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

Iranian Delegation Visits Military Installations

BK0711105689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] The visiting Iranian delegation led by Mr (Hayat Mukadam) met with the adviser to the prime minister on defense affairs, Major General Mohammad Imtiaz Ali, retired, in Rawalpindi and held talks with him on matters of professional interest. The delegation also visited many military installations.

New Combat Aircraft Sent to Frontline Squadron

BK0511143089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Pakistan Air Force [PAF] added a new combat aircraft to its operation inventory with the deployment of the F-7P fighter to one of its frontline squadrons at the PAF base, (Rafiqi), in Sherkot today. The aircraft is a completely modified and highly modernized version of the MiG-21.

Baluchistan Party To Sign Accord With Opposition

BK0611092489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Manzoor Ahmad Gichki, parliamentary leader of the Baluchistan National Alliance in the National Assembly, said that his party has agreed to sign an accord with the Combined Opposition Party. The aim of the agreement is to achieve meaningful autonomy for the provinces. In a statement in Karachi yesterday, he alleged that the Pakistan People's Party wants to establish a one-party system in the country.

National Assembly Speaker on No-Confidence Move

BK0611161289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The National Assembly speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, said that both the government and the opposition have demonstrated a high degree of tolerance and democratic behavior on the no-confidence motion in the National Assembly, and that this spirit should be demonstrated outside the house also.

Speaking at a reception hosted by a group of lawyers and intellectuals in Lahore this evening, he said national integration should be the prime objective of elected representatives and of intellectuals. Differences are part of the democratic process, but they should be settled through mutual understanding. Malik Mairaj Khalid said that understanding is essential for national cohesion. He said Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has already initiated a process of national reconciliation and the opposition should also demonstrate this spirit.

Sri Lanka

LTTE: 2,000 Fresh Indian Troops Sent In

BK0511073089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0729 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrillas Sunday accused New Delhi of sending in more soldiers despite a publicised withdrawal of troops from the island and warned they may break a fragile truce with the Indians.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said New Delhi had sent some 2,000 soldiers to the northern Jaffna peninsula, the heartland of rebel activity, last week in two naval ships via the small Kankesanthurai port.

"The Indian Army camp at Velvettithurai has been expanded to accommodate the new arrivals," a statement released here from the LTTE's London office said.

There was no immediate response from Indian officials or the local military here.

The LTTE accused India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), of raising a para-military Tamil militia in the island's Northeast where some 36,000 Indian troops are currently deployed.

The Tamil chief minister of the Northeastern Provincial Council on Saturday [4 November] denied local press reports that a so-called Tamil National Army was operating in his area and blamed the LTTE for trying to create conditions of war.

The LTTE has accused Chief Minister Varadharaja Perumal and his pro-Indian Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) of raising an army to fight Tiger rebels after Indian troops leave by the end of the year.

The LTTE and Indian troops are currently observing a ceasefire since a September 18 understanding between Colombo and New Delhi on the troop pullout. But both the LTTE and India had traded accusations of truce violations.

"Under the guise of a ceasefire, a massive paramilitary force is being created by the Indian intelligence agency RAW to fight the Tamil Tigers. This serious development will compel the LTTE to reconsider their decision on observing the ceasefire," the statement said.

It listed several incidents in which Tigers alleged that young boys and girls had been abducted from their homes for military training.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters last week that local security forces had been ordered to destroy illegal paramilitary forces, amid local press reports that the EPRLF was creating a private army.

LTTE Guerrillas Attack 2 CVF Camps, Killing 33

BK0511131289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerrillas overran two camps of rival militants Sunday, killing at least 33 and losing three of their own men in the country's multi-ethnic eastern region, Tamil sources here said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pounded the camps in Thambulvil and Thirukkovil coastal villages triggering the bloodiest clashes since Indian troops left the area ten days ago, the sources said.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister and Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne confirmed that camps of the official Citizen's Volunteer Force (CVF) had been attacked and that he had ordered local troops to move into the area to restore peace.

"I have ordered the Army to clear the area and capture those involved (in the attack)," Mr. Wijeratne said. He could not immediately give casualty figures or how many troops were sent to the region.

Tamil sources here quoted reports from the region as saying that 33 CVF men and three tigers were killed in the clashes and an unspecified number of men wounded.

An estimated 55 CVF men are believed to have been kidnapped with their weapons by the LTTE, the sources said.

The CVF is part of the law enforcement arm of the Tamil majority Northeastern Provincial Council controlled by the LTTE's arch rival, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

The sources said EPRLF reinforcements had rushed to the two CVF camps within six kilometers (four miles) of each other and were searching the area after the surprise pre-dawn tiger attacks.

A LTTE spokesman here confirmed the incident, but said he had no details. Local residents said shops were closed in neighbouring towns Sunday and they heard gunfire for more than 10 straight hours until Sunday afternoon.

The scene of the latest clashes is in eastern Ampara District, which was cleared of an estimated 4,000 Indian soldiers on October 24 ahead of a total Indian pullout from the island by the end of the year.

69 Suspected Subversives Arrested; Weapons Seized

BK0611103889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0932 GMT 6 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (LANKAPUVATH)—Security forces arrested sixty-nine suspected subversives in Badulla, Kegalle and Colombo. A government communique issued today states that 54 suspects were arrested in Badulla's Welimada and Uva Paranagama area, 7 in Kegalle, 6 in Maligakande, Colombo and 2 at Kamkanamgama in Hambantota. Security forces recovered from the 2 suspects arrested in Hambantota, trap guns, wire, batteries and gun powder. At Gangodagama in Matara, a police mobile patrol recovered a Claymore mine.

The communique further states that in the Uva Province district of Badulla, 8 muzzle-loading guns and 4 .303 rifles were recovered by the security forces at Baddankotte and Kandegedera. At Ampitiya, in Kandy, subversives attacked a police party injuring 3 policemen. Police constable Tennakoon succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

In Matale, security forces at a road block arrested a [word indistinct] soldier, a bodyguard of Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara (NLSSP leader) [Nava Lanka Sama Samaja Party]. He was carrying a .38 revolver and several rounds of ammunition in a bus. The weapon and ammunition was taken over by the security forces and the soldier released, the communique states.

At Ranpegoda North, Matara, unidentified gunmen stabbed and injured a soldier, C. Sunil, who was on leave. Subsequently the gunmen had taken away his father, H. Pathirana, and shot him dead. The soldier had escaped with injuries. During an exchange of fire between EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Jaffna one EPRLF member was injured, the communique states.